



OFFICIALS BREAK UP 4 VENEZUELAN PROTEST CAMPS

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Aruba TODAY

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Friday, May 9, 2014



Speaker of the House John Boehner is asked about the special select committee he has formed to investigate the deadly 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, raising the stakes in a political battle with the Obama administration as the midterm election season heats up, during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, May 8, 2014.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

BRADLEY KLAPPER
DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House of Representatives voted Thursday to establish a new investigation of the 2012 assault in Benghazi, Libya, that killed the U.S. ambassador there. Republicans are focusing on the issue as congressio-

nal elections loom in November and as former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, a Democrat, weighs a run for president in 2016. Democrats say the Benghazi inquiry is actually a political ploy and are considering a boycott. They will meet Friday morning to decide on their next step.

Four Americans died in the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission. Republicans accuse the Obama administration of misleading the American people about the nature of the attack during a presidential campaign and blocking multiple congressional inquiries. A bitterly divided House vot-

ed 232-186 to establish the panel that Speaker John Boehner insisted would answer questions that linger almost 20 months after the attack. The panel's investigation will be the eighth on Benghazi. Independent, bipartisan and Republican-led probes have faulted the State Department for inad-

equately security at the outpost. Boehner's legislation creates a select House committee through the end of the year. It will have to be reapproved when a new Congress begins in January or go out of existence. The select committee has no explicit financial constraints. □

Venezuelan officials break up protesters' camps

**FABIOLA SANCHEZ
RICARDO NUNES
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela
(AP)** — Hundreds of Venezuelan police and troops broke up four makeshift camps maintained by student protesters, arresting 243 people Thursday in pre-dawn raids. The tent cities were installed more than a month ago in front of the offices of the United

ence outside the detention center where the protesters were being held, he said an "impressive" amount of drugs were also found. He performed a test in front of journalists to determine the purity of cocaine that he said was confiscated. The dismantling of the camps was announced just hours before a top opposition leader, Leopoldo Lopez, was scheduled to

relying on the element of surprise rather than aggressive force to round up the protesters. He said the detainees would be charged, but it wasn't clear when that would happen. Under Venezuelan law, prosecutors have 48 hours to bring detainees before a judge and charge them, but in recent months officials have often ignored the rules and held protesters incommuni-

top Venezuelan officials. The Obama administration argued at a Senate committee hearing that sanctions would be premature while dialogue continues between Maduro's government and some members of the opposition. Roberta Jacobson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, said some opposition leaders have urged the



People sit in the middle of a street near Altamira square in protest of officials breaking up camps maintained by student protesters, in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, May 8, 2014. Hundreds of security forces broke up four camps maintained by student protesters, arresting 243 people in a Thursday pre-dawn raid. The camps consisting of small tents were installed more than a month ago in front of the UN building and other anti-government strongholds in the capital to protest against President Nicolas Maduro's government. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

Nations and in better-off neighborhoods in the capital to protest against President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government. Interior Minister Miguel Rodriguez Torres presented homemade mortars, guns and Molotov cocktails that he said were seized at the camps and used to carry out "terrorist" acts against security forces. "This shows there was an entire logistical apparatus in place," Rodriguez Torres said, seeking to counter claims that the anti-government movement has been peaceful and spontaneous. Speaking at a news confer-

appear in court after being in custody since February. The hearing on whether he should begin trial on charges of inciting violence at anti-government protests was suspended and he was taken back to a military prison almost as soon as he arrived at the courthouse downtown. Witnesses near the U.N. office said hundreds of National Guardsmen began arriving after 3 a.m. and were greeted angrily by neighbors who launched objects and insults from nearby balconies. Rodriguez Torres said the operation was carried out cleanly, with security forces

cado for longer periods before letting them go. Hours after the raids, a scattered detritus of shoes, clothes and destroyed banners littered the streets where the makeshift campground once stood. A few dozen neighbors built barricades to block traffic, demanding the release of the students. "How can this be allowed when the constitution guarantees the right to peaceful protest," said Anais Serano, a real estate agent. "These kids weren't anything bad." The raids came as the U.S. Congress began debate Thursday on economic sanctions against

United States not to go forward with sanctions. "They have asked us not to pursue them at this time," Jacobson said. The legislation in both chambers is relatively modest. It centers on freezing assets and banning visas for Venezuelan officials who crushed anti-government protests. It would also boost aid for pro-democracy and civil society groups. U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman who introduced the legislation, said he would like to hear directly from leaders who oppose the sanctions. □

Chile president faces first large student protest

**EVA VERGARA
Associated Press
SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)** —

Tens of thousands of students protested in Chile on Thursday in the first march demanding education reform since President Michelle Bachelet took power on promises of deep changes.

The students marched through the streets of downtown Santiago heading to La Moneda presidential palace in a mostly peaceful protest that was marred at the end by hooded vandals who infiltrated the demonstrations to clash with police throwing rocks and petrol bombs.

About 1,800 police officers guarded the march to avoid more violence. Student leaders estimated the crowd at 100,000 but police said it was closer to 40,000 people.

Bachelet was inaugurated for a new presidential term two months ago. She has vowed an education overhaul funded by a corporate tax hike in response to the millions of people who have taken part in protests since 2011 demanding deep changes to a system suffering from poor quality public schools, unprepared teachers and expensive private universities. Students say the government is finally on the right course after years of staging massive marches demanding free, quality education. But they say it's still not enough and they want to be part of the reform. "I think these projects are aimed in the right direction, but it's unfortunate that there is no process of participation and debate," said Naschla Aburman, a student leader at Universidad Catolica. The student protests began under the 2006-10 presidency of Bachelet, who appeased some students by naming a commission including several of their leaders, and shuffling her Cabinet. But many others were left disappointed. □

Putin must face Western leaders at D-Day event

JULIE PACE
AP White House
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP)—Complicating the West's efforts to isolate Russia, the Kremlin announced Thursday that Vladimir Putin will join President Barack Obama and European leaders in France next month for a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion that hastened the end of World War II. The June 6 commemoration would mark the first time Putin and Western leaders have come face-to-face since the outbreak of the crisis in Ukraine. The U.S. and Europe have condemned Russia's provocations, ordering sanctions on Putin's inner circle and cutting Russia's ties to some international organizations. Still, leaders from Germany and France publicly welcomed Putin's decision to attend the observance at Normandy, raising questions about the effectiveness of recent efforts to ostracize the Russian president over Ukraine. And while the White House said Obama would not meet one-on-one with Putin, U.S. officials did not appear to be seeking to stop him from attending.

"We would not expect France to dis-invite Russia from this historic event commemorating World War II because of what's taking place in Ukraine," White House spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said. "The events in Normandy on June 6 are focused on remembering the sacrifices of all our World War II veterans." Millions of Russian lives were lost in the war against Nazi Germany. Yet Putin's presence is sure to intrude on, if not overshadow, the commemorations of the Normandy landings by allied forces. Even without a formal meeting between Putin and Western leaders, there will be heightened interest in their interactions, particularly between Obama and Putin, who have a history of tense public encounters. □

Immigration: US warns schools against bias

KIMBERLY HEFLING
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite a 32-year-old court ruling, school districts continue to raise barriers to enrollment for children brought into the U.S. illegally, the Obama administration said Thursday, characterizing reports of hindrances as troubling. The Justice Department and Education Department issued new guidance reminding schools and districts they have a legal obligation to enroll every student regardless of immigration status.

The guidance says schools should be flexible in deciding which documents they will accept to prove a student's age or residency. The guidance also reminds them not to ask about a student's immigration status or require documents such as a driver's license, if that would prevent a student from enrolling because of a parent's immigration status.

The Education Department said it has received 17 complaints since 2011 from states including Colorado, North Carolina, Ohio, Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico and the District of Columbia.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan said that in some

instances, school leaders have inappropriately required information such as a child's visa status or date of entry into the United States. Justice Department officials said they also have

has entered into settlement agreements with school districts in states such as Georgia, Florida, and Virginia.

And it said that after it contacted officials in

they lack a Social Security number or birth certificate or because their parents don't have an Alabama driver's license.

In a settlement with the district in Palm Beach County,



Education Secretary Arne Duncan, right, accompanied by Attorney General Eric Holder, speaks at J. Ormond Wilson Elementary School in Washington. The Obama administration said May 8 that troubling reports continue of school districts raising barriers to enrollment for children brought into the U.S. illegally.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

taken action, sometimes collaboratively with the Education Department and sometimes working separately.

The Justice Department

Alabama, the state education department sent guidance to districts spelling out that they may not bar or discourage students from enrollment because

Florida, the district agreed to provide translation help during enrollment and to permit homeless students who lack documentation to enroll. □

House committee subpoenas Veterans Affairs Secretary

RICHARD A. OPPEL JR
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A House committee voted Thursday to subpoena the head of the Veterans Affairs Department, Eric Shinseki, and other top officials, stepping up scrutiny of the agency amid accusations that secret waiting lists were used to cover up long delays that veterans faced to see doctors.

The subpoena from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs covers all emails and other correspondence related to the "destruction or disappearance of an alternate or interim wait-list" at the department's Phoenix medical center. It asked for all emails from April 9 to

May 8 sent to or from Shinseki; Dr. Robert A. Petzel, the department's undersecretary for health; Will A. Gunn, the department's general counsel; and five other senior officials.

The committee chairman, Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., said the subpoena was necessary because the department had been "stonewalling" requests to provide more information about claims that an off-the-books waiting list was used to hide wait times, and that the list may have been subsequently destroyed.

"It is unfortunate that we have to come to this decision, but we did not do so without substantial justifica-

tion," Miller said before the panel voted unanimously to issue the subpoena.

Previously, Miller wrote a letter to Shinseki seeking more information after he said that a top Veterans Affairs official had told congressional aides that an "interim list" on a spreadsheet may have been the focus of the Phoenix allegations, but that the spreadsheet had been destroyed.

In a statement Thursday, the VA said it would "review and respond to the subpoena." The department also announced that it would undertake a national review of its facilities to "ensure a full understanding of VA's policy

and continued integrity in managing patient access to care."

The review will include "face-to-face" audits at all clinics at department medical centers. "VA takes any allegations about patient care or employee misconduct very seriously," the statement said.

The accusations in Phoenix - and similar claims that have surfaced in Colorado and Texas - have snowballed into a new test for Shinseki, the media-shy former four-star Army general. This week, one of the largest and most influential veterans organizations, the American Legion, called for Shinseki's resignation. □

Oklahoma court agrees to delay of execution

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A court in the U.S. on Thursday agreed to a six-month delay of execution for a death row inmate while an investigation is conducted into last week's botched lethal injection. The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals reset the

execution date of inmate Charles Warner to Nov. 13, shortly after the state's top lawyer agreed to the delay while an investigation is conducted into last week's incident. Attorney General Scott Pruitt and Gov. Mary Fallin have said the state will not carry out any ex-

ecutions until the investigation is complete, which is expected to take at least eight weeks. Warner was scheduled for execution on the same night last week as Clayton Lockett in what would have been the state's first double execution since

1937. But Lockett's vein collapsed during his lethal injection. It was the first time the state had ever used the sedative midazolam as the first in a three-drug lethal injection protocol. Lockett writhed on the gurney, gritted his teeth, lifted his head several times and



This photo provided by the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, shows convicted killer Charles Warner. Attorney General Scott Pruitt's office filed court documents saying it wouldn't object to a 180-day stay of execution being sought by attorneys for inmate Charles Warner while the investigation is underway. Warner was scheduled for execution on the same night last week as Clayton Lockett in what would have been the state's first double execution since 1937.

(AP Photo/Oklahoma Department of Corrections)

moaned. The curtains that allow witnesses to view the execution were closed about 16 minutes into the lethal injection. The director of the state's prison system, Robert Patton, then called off the execution, but Lockett died of an apparent heart attack, 43 minutes after the start of his execution.

Patton has released a report saying the state didn't have another dose of the drugs available.

States in the U.S. have faced challenges finding execution methods as more companies refuse to supply drugs for executions. Thirty-two states still have the death penalty, and lethal injection is used in the vast majority of cases, according to the non-profit Death Penalty Information Center. Thirty-nine people were executed in the U.S. last year, with Texas leading the way with 16 and Oklahoma second with six. While public support for the death penalty remains strong in the U.S., concerns have been renewed by the execution of Lockett and an incident in January where an Ohio inmate snorted and gasped during the 26 minutes it took him to die. □

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Vermont law requires labeling of GMO foods

DAVE GRAM

Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vermont (AP)

— Vermont's governor signed a law Thursday that puts the state on the path to be the first in the U.S. to require labeling of genetically modified foods, and he promptly announced an online fundraiser to fight expected legal challenges from the food industry.

The Vermont law takes effect in mid-2016, but opponents said shortly after the bill signing that they would file a lawsuit. The Grocery Manufacturers' Association said government has no compelling interest in warning consumers about GMO foods. Another obstacle to the state law looms in Congress, as Republicans work on a bill that would forbid states from passing and enforcing laws requiring GMO

labeling.

Critics of GMO foods consider them environmentally suspect and a possible health threat. But many in the food industry say the food is safe, the technology boosts food production, and its use is less environmentally harmful than traditional farming methods.

Gov. Peter Shumlin announced the launch of a website to help the state raise funds toward a court battle with agribusiness or biotech industries.

The law calls for the labeling of processed GMO foods and for retailers to post signs on displays of unpackaged genetically engineered foods. Restaurants are exempt from the requirements. It also sets a civil penalty of \$1,000 per day per product for "false certification." □



Edge Fuentes, left, stands with his wife Katie Spring, right, and their 9-month-old son Waylon in their planting room surrounded by seedlings for vegetables and flowers at their Good Heart Farmstead, in Worcester, Vt. Spring and Fuentes back the GMO labeling bill passed by Vermont. They believe people need to be able to know what's in their food.

(AP Photo/Wilson Ring)

Detectives: 4 found dead in Florida home were shot

TAMARA LUSH

MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

TAMPA, Florida (AP)

— A man, his wife and their two teenage children were shot before the home they were renting from a former tennis star burned down in what investigators called arson, with fireworks and gasoline perhaps contributing to the fire, authorities said Thursday.

Autopsies were still being completed to determine how the four died, but investigators have said they are looking into the possibility of a murder-suicide.

Authorities recovered a gun at the home registered to Darrin Campbell, and he bought an "exceedingly large amount" of fireworks and gas cans days before the fire, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Col. Donna Lusczynski said.

Authorities still have not positively identified the bodies, but the family has not been accounted for, and a relative said they were inside the home when it burned.

As flames shot through the roof Wednesday morning,

neighbors reported explosions.

Campbell bought \$650 of fireworks on Sunday, and authorities said fireworks were found throughout the home. Still, it wasn't clear what role the fireworks might have played, though Lusczynski said they could've been used to ignite the fire or keep it going. The home is owned by former tennis professional James Blake.

William Weimer, vice president of Phantom fireworks, described them as fireworks someone might set off on Independence Day. Weimer said the fireworks could have started a fire, but it would have spread slowly. The amount of powder inside each one was smaller than an aspirin, he said.

A store manager, Rocky DiRoma, said there was nothing unusual about Campbell during the \$650 purchase.

"He was just an average Joe," DiRoma said.

A former neighbor, George Connley, said Kimberly Campbell was "sophisticated and classy." □

Mother's Day Brunch

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Christie aids a colleague's campaign in Maine

NICK CORASANITI

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PORTLAND, Maine - The SUV had barely come to a full stop before Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey hopped out and walked

The two unabashed, tell-it-like-it-is Republican governors, both in varying stages of image rehabilitation, made quick work of the sparsely filled diner in a town still inching toward

up lobster rolls and omelets while her daughter, Stephanie, waited tables, walking past the ceramic flowerpots and purse hooks that she had crafted and painted herself. The

nor draw near.

But even in such a short, upbeat visit, he still had to face the fallout from the scandal. LePage, 65, was asked if he still held the same opinion he did of Christie in 2011, when he proclaimed, "I'm going to be the Chris Christie of Maine." He gave a quick chuckle before answering in the affirmative.

"The one thing you folks really need to understand when it comes to people like Chris Christie and myself - what we tell you is what we believe," LePage said. "So it's the truth."

Patrons in the diner were happy to meet Christie, but the bridge scandal remained a topic of every conversation.

"He's done a nice job as governor, and I think he's a really good man," Katherine Mathews, 54, of Portland, said. "But I didn't like the bridge scandal. I hate traffic. I'm just glad that he seems to have been very far from the decisions that were made." Rand, the diner's owner, agreed. "Some of the people under him made mistakes, and it's a shame when that paints everyone with that brush," she said. "But I think he cares about his state, and I think he's a good man."

The original promise of Christie as the big-personality chairman of the Republican Governors Association - with a natu-

ral ability to rally a crowd and engage in unscripted interaction with voters - has yet to be seen. Most of his fundraising excursions have been behind mansion walls and closed country club doors, with trips in motorcades whisking him to and from events. Since January, the fundraising trips Christie has taken - to Illinois, Iowa, New York and Texas - had not included him appearing in public with a candidate.

"You don't do retail campaigning in February and March for November elections," he explained. "The fact is, what you do in February, March and April, and to some extent in May, is to raise money to be able to spend to be able to retail campaign in August and September, and so this is the plan that we've had all along." LePage could use a boost in his bid for a second term, as he has been trailing his Democratic challenger, Rep. Mike Michaud, in the money race in what many forecast to be a tightly contested election.

LePage also is no stranger to political controversy. Often known to speak his mind, he has had to apologize on various occasions throughout his tenure, from joking that he wanted to blow up a regional newspaper to allegedly saying at a private fundraiser that President Barack Obama "hates white people" to comparing the Internal Revenue Service to the Gestapo. The two governors seemed uplifted by the visit, but they skipped the family-recipe pies and instead spoke with Stephen Bartlett, 92, a retired salesman.

"I've just come by to say hello," Christie told Bartlett. "Well, that's fantastic," he responded, beaming. The two spoke briefly, and Christie offered compliments on Bartlett's longevity and introduced him to LePage. Bartlett wished the New Jersey governor good luck. "I appreciate that," Christie responded. "I could use as much good luck as I can get." □



Governors Chris Christie, of New Jersey, and Paul LePage, of Maine, during a news conference after a campaign event at Becky's Diner in Portland, Maine, May 7, 2014. The event was Christie's first as chairman of the Republican Governors Association in which he campaigned in public with a candidate since the George Washington Bridge lane-closing scandal broke.

(Craig Dilger/The New York Times)

briskly under the dusted-white sign on the front of Becky's Diner. His quick entrance Wednesday, trotting behind Gov. Paul LePage of Maine, set the tone as Christie, chairman of the Republican Governors Association, campaigned in public with a candidate for the first time since the George Washington Bridge lane-closing scandal broke.

spring, chatting up patrons and staff, before exiting about six minutes later to talk to the news media. The setting was about as comfortable as it can get for Christie as he tests the waters of public perception: a shorefront diner for a governor from a state that is known for them. Zack Rand, the son of the diner's owner, Becky Rand, had just finished cooking

regulars are fisherman, day laborers and other local residents. After a period of relative invisibility outside New Jersey since the scandal came to light in January, Christie, 51, once considered a leading Republican contender for the White House in 2016, has made clear that he is going to do more of this kind of campaigning as this year's elections for gover-

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US Financial Front:

Average US 30-year mortgage rate falls to 4.21 pct

WASHINGTON (AP) — Average U.S. rates on fixed mortgages fell this week for a second straight week as the spring home-buying season has gotten off to a slow start.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday the average rate for the 30-year loan declined to 4.21 percent from 4.29 percent last week. The average for the 15-year mortgage eased to 3.32 percent from 3.38 percent.

Mortgage rates have risen almost a full percentage point since hitting record lows about a year ago.

Warmer weather has yet to boost home-buying as it normally does. Rising prices and higher rates have made affordability a problem for would-be buyers, while many homeowners are reluctant to list their properties for sale. Roughly a third of homeowners owe more on their mortgage than they could recoup from a sale.

Data released Tuesday showed that U.S. home prices rose at a slightly slower pace in the 12 months that ended in March, a sign that weak sales have begun to restrain the housing market's sharp price gains. Real-estate data provider CoreLogic said prices rose 11.1 percent in March compared with March 2013. Though a sizable increase, that was down a bit from February's 12.2 percent year-over-year increase.

Home sales and construction have faltered since last fall, slowing the economy. A harsh winter, higher buying costs and a limited supply of available homes have discouraged many potential buyers. Existing-home sales in March reached their lowest level in 20 months.

Some signs suggest that buying might be picking up a bit as the spring season gets underway. Signed contracts to buy

homes rose in March for the first time in nine months, the National As-

sociation of Realtors said rates over the year was driven by speculation that the Federal Reserve would

long-term interest rates low. Indeed, the Fed has announced four \$10 billion declines in its monthly bond purchases since December.

The latest came last week as Fed officials decided to reduce the monthly purchases to \$45 billion a month, because they believe the economy is steadily healing. However, the central bank expects its benchmark short-term rate to remain unusually low.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen told Congress this week that the economy is improving but noted that the job market remains "far from satisfactory" and inflation is still below the Fed's target rate. □



In this photo, a sold sign is placed on a homesite in the Grace Manor townhouse development in Robinson Township, Pa. Freddie Mac, the mortgage company, released weekly mortgage rates on Thursday, May 8, 2014.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

sociation of Realtors said last week.

The increase in mortgage

reduce its \$85 billion-a-month bond purchases, which have helped keep

U.S. unemployment aid applications fall to 319K

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell 26,000 last week to 319,000, the latest sign that the job market is slowly improving. The drop follows two weeks of increases that reflected mostly temporary layoffs around the Easter holiday. The holiday can cause an uptick in layoffs of bus drivers, cafeteria workers and other school workers during spring break. Those earlier increases caused the four-week average of applications, a less volatile number, to rise 4,500 to a seasonally

adjusted 324,750.

With the impact of the holiday fading, applications are returning to pre-recession levels. The average fell in early April to 312,000, the fewest since October 2007. The recession officially began in December 2007.

"Through the volatility, the data remain encouraging," said Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics. The four-week average of applications is down from an average of 343,000 for all of last year, O'Sullivan noted. That is "consistent with the pick-up in employment growth" that's taken place this year, he added. □

Mother's Day Menu
Sunday May 11th, 2014

APPETIZERS

Shrimp Chowder Soup
Creamy black tiger shrimp soup, Pernod, crostini bread, micro greens & shrimp foam

or

Caprese Salad & Pesto
Buffalo mozzarella cheese, radicchio, pesto aioli, garlic croutons, tomato julienne & balsamic vinaigrette

Amuse Bouche: creamy tomato soup and basil mousse

ENTREES

Pesto Chicken Breast & Arugula Risotto
Grilled chicken breast, arugula risotto, pesto sauce & parmesan foam.

or

Land & Sea
Pan seared 4 oz Tenderloin steak, poached lobster, steamed potatoes, sautéed baby spinach & green pepper sauce.

or

Red Snapper & Passion-fruit Sauce
Pan fried red snapper fish, mixed baby vegetables, cauliflower puree & aromatic passion fruit sauce

DESSERT

Basil Creme Brulee & Fruits
Basil vanilla custard, thin layer caramelized burned sugar & fresh seasonal fruits

or

Chocolate Textures & Strawberries
Chocolate mousse, chocolate crispy cookie, chocolate panna-cotta, strawberry ice cream & fresh strawberries

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Senators warn of similar carcinogen risk with e-cigarettes and regular cigarettes

M. PERRONE
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eight members of the U.S. Senate are calling on the Food and Drug Administration to examine new research suggesting that some electronic cigarettes can produce dangerous carcinogens similar to those from traditional cigarettes.

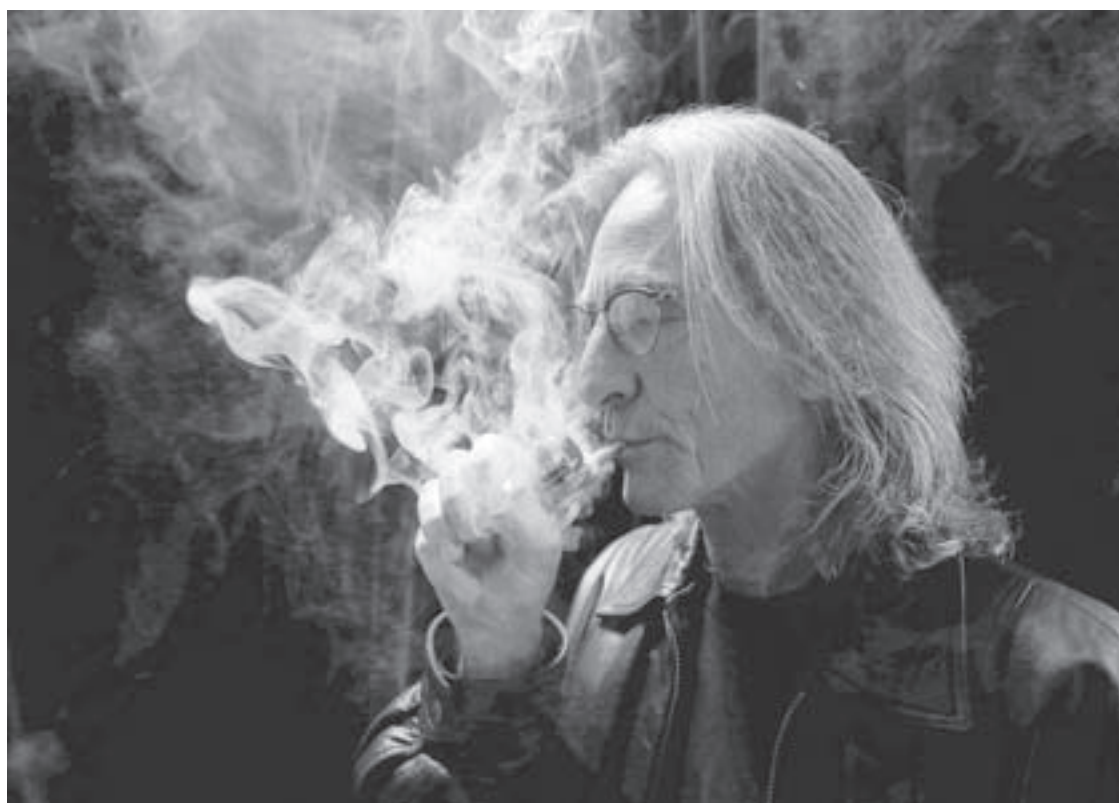
In a letter sent Thursday, the Democratic lawmakers say that the FDA should work to protect e-cigarette users and those nearby from

enough to produce toxic chemicals like formaldehyde, a carcinogen also found in traditional cigarettes.

E-cigarette proponents have argued that the devices are a safer alternative to cigarettes because they do not produce the smoke and tar caused by burning tobacco. But the new research by scientists at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute challenges that reasoning, at least for some products. The Buffalo, New

York-based center's study is scheduled for publication later this month in the *Nicotine and Tobacco Research* journal, according to the Times. The findings also raise questions about the potential hazards of e-cigarettes for non-users who inadvertently inhale their vapors. New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles have all recently instituted bans on the use of e-cigarettes in certain indoor areas and public places. Last month the FDA announced it would begin regulating the emerging e-cigarette field. But the senators point out that the FDA's proposal focuses mainly on e-cigarette ingredients, rather than the vapors they produce. "We simply cannot afford to lag behind in our complete understanding of the health consequences to the user and bystander of these and other advanced nicotine delivery products," states the letter. It was signed by Sens. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., Jack Reed, D-Conn., Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, and Dick Durbin, D-Ill.

An FDA spokeswoman



John Hartigan, proprietor of Vapeology LA, a store selling electronic cigarettes and related items, takes a puff of an electronic cigarette at his store in Los Angeles. Eight members of the U.S. Senate are calling on the Food and Drug Administration to examine new research suggesting that some electronic cigarettes can produce dangerous carcinogens similar to those from traditional cigarettes. (AP Photo/Reed Saxon)

cancer-causing vapors apparently produced by high-powered nicotine devices, known as tank systems.

Electronic cigarettes mainly consist of a battery, heating coil and a tank that holds flavored liquid nicotine. As users puff on the e-cigarette, the battery heats the coil and the liquid is turned into a vapor that is inhaled like smoke from a traditional cigarette. Tank systems are generally larger e-cigarettes — about the size of an electronic toothbrush — that can hold more nicotine and an extended battery supply.

Studies first reported by The New York Times suggest that these devices get hot

enough to produce toxic chemicals like formaldehyde, a carcinogen also found in traditional cigarettes. E-cigarette proponents have argued that the devices are a safer alternative to cigarettes because they do not produce the smoke and tar caused by burning tobacco. But the new research by scientists at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute challenges that reasoning, at least for some products. The Buffalo, New York-based center's study is scheduled for publication later this month in the *Nicotine and Tobacco Research* journal, according to the Times. The findings also raise questions about the potential hazards of e-cigarettes for non-users who inadvertently inhale their vapors. New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles have all recently instituted bans on the use of e-cigarettes in certain indoor areas and public places. Last month the FDA announced it would begin regulating the emerging e-cigarette field. But the senators point out that the FDA's proposal focuses mainly on e-cigarette ingredients, rather than the vapors they produce. "We simply cannot

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An FDA spokeswoman said in a statement that the agency is also funding research into the safety of e-cigarette vapor, including one of the studies referenced by the senators. "Where the science does not exist, we are able to fund the research to answer key questions related to e-cigarette safety and consumer behavior. In fact, FDA is funding dozens of studies that will help answer those questions, including four studies alone that will focus on the contents of e-cigarette vapor," said Jennifer Haliski in an emailed statement.

The FDA is now taking public comments on its proposal, which treads fairly lightly on the \$2 billion e-cigarette market. □

Obama taps tech world for cash during privacy debate

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Barack Obama was to attend two high-dollar Democratic Party fundraisers Thursday hosted by Silicon Valley executives, drawing attention to the complicated relationship between the president and the high-tech industry in the aftermath of scandals over government snooping.

The revelations of National Security Agency data collection made public by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden have created an outcry from tech companies whose data have been gathered by the government. Obama has had to reassure Internet and tech executives that he is committed to protecting privacy. Still, Obama remains a popular political figure in Silicon Valley, and the wealthy tech entrepreneurs appear willing to part with their money to support the party, especially if the president is making the pitch.

Obama was to attend a fundraiser hosted by Anne Wojcicki, a biotech entrepreneur who founded the personal-genomics startup 23andMe. The event is advertised as a Tech Roundtable, with 30 guests and tickets set at \$32,400 — a nearly \$1 million potential haul for the Democratic National Committee.

He also was scheduled to be the featured guest at an event hosted by Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer and Sam Altman, the 29-year-old president of Y Combinator, a venture capital firm that seeds tech startups.

The role of the computer and Internet industry in U.S. politics has grown sharply over the past 10 years, increasing political contributions and expanding its lobbying presence. Executives and employees in the industry favor Democrats, yet the political action committees set up by individual tech firms tend to split their money more evenly.

So far this election cycle, computer and Internet industry political action committees have contributed about \$3.5 million, with about 54 percent of it going to Republicans, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks political money. Counting political action committees and individual donors, the industry has donated more than \$14 million to federal candidates, giving \$3 to Democrats for every \$2 to Republicans, according to the center.

In addition to cybersecurity, Silicon Valley executives also have been pushing for an overhaul of immigration laws, partly to secure more H1B visas for high-tech workers but also in support of giving immigrants who are in the country illegally a chance to achieve citizenship. They have also weighed in on new "net neutrality" regulations being fashioned by the Federal Communications Commission and have raised fears that the rules would allow telephone and cable Internet providers to impose fees on Internet companies. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the tech executives were donating because they support Obama's policies, and he rejected suggestions that the tech executives were getting financial leverage to affect Washington issues of concern to the industry. "There's no reason to think that that the policy-making process is affected by those involved," Earnest said.

Among the major tech players, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg has been an especially high-profile figure. He launched an advocacy group that has been among the most active on the immigration issue.

And he has been a vocal critic of the NSA's data collection, calling Obama to voice his alarm. Shortly after, Obama met with Zuckerberg and CEOs from Google, Netflix and other tech and Internet companies, pledging to safeguard privacy rights. □

Ukraine insurgents to hold vote, ignoring Putin's calls



The head of the elections commission of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic, Denis Pushilin, center foreground, is seen during a press conference to inform the media about the referendum at the occupied administration building in Donetsk, Ukraine, Thursday, May 8, 2014. The pro-Russia insurgency in eastern Ukraine decided Thursday to go ahead with Sunday's referendum on autonomy despite a call from Russian President Vladimir Putin to delay it.

(AP Photo/Manu Brabo)

PETER LEONARD

Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) —

In an obscure government office guarded by a man in a red T-shirt armed only with a stick, two photocopy machines churned out ballots Thursday for eastern Ukraine's referendum on secession, as they have been doing around the clock for days.

In apparent defiance of a call by Russian President Vladimir Putin to put off the vote, insurgents in eastern Ukraine insisted Thursday they will go ahead with this weekend's referendum as planned.

"Putin is seeking a way out of the situation. We are grateful to him for this," said Denis Pushilin, co-chairman of the Donetsk People's Republic, as the pro-Russian rebels call themselves.

Ukraine has in recent weeks grown perilously polarized, with the west looking toward Europe and the east favoring closer ties with Russia. Thursday's pronouncement was likely to further inflame tensions between the interim government in

Kiev that took power amid chaos in February and the armed insurgents, who have seized police stations and government buildings in more than a dozen cities in the east.

Support for the referendum is most pronounced among eastern Ukraine's proudly Russian-speaking working class. Rage against the central government that came to power after months of nationalist-tinged protests is blended with despair at Ukraine's dire economic straits and corruption.

The occasionally violent protests that culminated in President Viktor Yanukovich's fleeing to Russia were viewed by many in the east as a coup and a portent of repression against the region's majority Russian speakers.

"This isn't our government. It's the government of those that destroyed everything," said construction laborer Galina Lukash, 48, who plans to vote in favor of autonomy.

Along with the vote Sunday in the eastern Donetsk

region, a similar and even more hastily improvised referendum is to take place in the neighboring Luhansk region. Together they have about 6.5 million people.

The votes are similar to the one in Crimea in March that preceded Russia's annexation of that strategic Ukrainian Black Sea peninsula. Like the one in Crimea, they are regarded as illegitimate by both Kiev and the West.

But unlike the Crimean vote, which was held as Russian soldiers and affiliated local militias held control of the peninsula, the latest votes are being held amid armed conflict. And, critically, unlike Crimea, whose majority Russian-speaking population made approval a foregone conclusion, the Donetsk and Luhansk regions have a more mixed population.

A poll by the Washington-based Pew Research Center released on Thursday found that 70 percent of the residents of Ukraine's east want the country to maintain its current borders. □

Watchdogs urge Palestinians to turn plight to world court

M. DARAGHMEH

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) —

Leading international human rights groups urged the Palestinians on Thursday to seek access to the International Criminal Court and end what they say is a lack of accountability for serious crimes by both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

This includes accountability for acts of torture, indiscriminate attacks on civilians and Israeli settlement expansion on occupied lands, the groups wrote in a joint letter to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Seventeen groups signed the appeal, including inter-

national watchdogs such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, and 13 Palestinian organizations.

Since the U.N. General Assembly recognized a "state of Palestine" as a non-member observer in 2012, Abbas has had the option of seeking access to the ICC in The Hague.

However, the United States and Israel have strenuously objected to Palestine trying to join international agencies and conventions, saying it is an attempt to bypass peace talks.

Abbas froze such efforts during nearly nine months of U.S.-brokered peace talks with Israel. □



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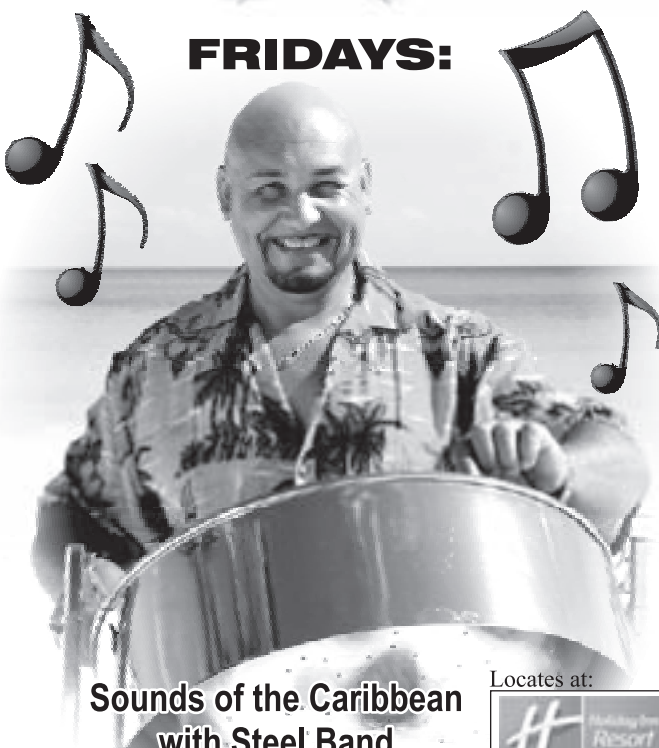
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China insists on rights to put rig off Vietnam

LOUISE WATT

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China insisted Thursday it had every right to drill for oil off Vietnam's coast and warned its neighbor to leave the area around the deep-sea rig where Chinese and Vietnamese ships are engaged in a tense standoff. With the ships jostling each other since China deployed the rig last weekend in disputed South China Sea waters, the United States warned both sides to de-escalate

tensions and urged China to clarify its claims to the territory. The stalemate underlines the apparently intractable nature of many of China's territorial disputes with its neighbors and the ship standoff — with both sides accusing the other of ramming ships — has raised the possibility of a conflict in the South China Sea's most serious incident in years. Vietnam's main stock market index recorded its biggest one-day drop since 2001 on fears of a pro-

tracted stalemate or possible conflict between the neighboring nations, which have fought two naval skirmishes in the waters since 1974 and have history of conflict going back 1,000 years. The standoff started May 1 when China moved a deep sea oil rig into waters close to the Paracel Islands in what most analysts believe was an especially assertive move to help cement its claims of sovereignty over the area. Vietnam, which says the islands

belong to it, immediately dispatched ships. On Wednesday, Vietnam said Chinese vessels had repeatedly rammed and fired water cannons at its ships, damaging several of them, and showed video footage of the incidents. China insists it is doing nothing wrong and said Thursday it had "maintained a lot of restraint" in the face of "intensive provocations" by Vietnam that were endangering its personnel and property. □



A Chinese ship, left, shoots water cannon at a Vietnamese vessel, right, while a Chinese Coast Guard ship, center, sails alongside in the South China Sea, off Vietnam's coast, Wednesday, May 7, 2014. Chinese ships were ramming and spraying water cannons at Vietnamese vessels trying to stop Beijing from setting up an oil rig in the South China Sea, according to Vietnamese officials and video evidence Wednesday, a dangerous escalation of tensions in disputed waters considered a global flashpoint.

(AP Photo/Vietnam Coast Guard)

Egypt's el-Sissi tells media not to push freedoms

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's top presidential candidate, the former military chief, warned newspaper editors not to press issues of freedoms of speech and other rights or campaign for democratic reforms, saying demands and protests jeopardize national security and that full democracy is an "idealistic" goal that could take 25 years to reach.

Field Marshal Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi also said he would "walk away" if people rose up against him and demanded that he step down — a promise also once

made by Islamist President Mohammed Morsi, who in the end refused to resign in the face of massive protests against him, prompting el-Sissi to remove him from power last summer. El-Sissi is seen as the overwhelming favorite to win the May 26-27 vote. So far in his campaign, he has heavily pushed the message that his priority is restoring stability and making "leaps" in development to reduce poverty after three years of turmoil and violence since the 2011 toppling of autocrat Hosni Mubarak. He has repeatedly said the public must get behind him and stop

protests. In a four-hour meeting with around 20 editors of Egypt's main newspapers, parts of which were aired on a private TV network Thursday and published on newspaper websites, el-Sissi told them that practice of freedoms must be balanced with national security and that the media should focus on rallying the public behind "the strategic goal" of "preserving the Egyptian state." El-Sissi warned the editors against "scaring people" with coverage that "creates skepticism or uneasiness in society." Speaking about protests,

he said: "You write in the newspaper, 'No voice is louder than freedom of speech!' What is this? What tourist would come to a country where we have demonstrations like this? You know that there are millions of people and families who can't earn their living because of the protests. It is one of the manifestations of instability." Most of the papers whose editors attended the meeting, while reporting the comments, focused their headlines on el-Sissi's remarks about plans to fight corruption and poverty and his readiness to leave power. □

Seoul: North Korea plans fourth nuclear test

HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea is making final preparations to conduct its fourth nuclear test but may not do so anytime soon, South Korea's defense minister said Thursday.

Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin told South Korean journalists that North Korea could detonate a nuclear device the instant the decision is made, though he didn't elaborate on what the final step of its preparations was, according to ministry officials. Kim also said North Korea may intentionally hold off on a test or it may be aiming to trick outside observers into believing it will explode a device even though it doesn't intend to do so soon, the officials said requesting anonymity citing department rules.

North Korea has threatened in recent weeks to conduct a nuclear test to protest what it calls U.S. and South Korean hostility and international condemnation over its rocket and missile tests earlier this year. South Korea has warned North Korea would face serious consequences if the test is made.

Many North Korea watchers had suspected a nuclear test would occur when President Barack Obama visited Seoul last month but nothing happened. Analysts remain divided over whether North Korea would go ahead with a test anytime soon.

But the test, if made, would mark another defiant response to U.S.-led international pressures on Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons program. North Korea conducted nuclear tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013. Western experts believe North Korea has a handful of rudimentary bombs though it's not yet believed to acquire a technology to manufacture warheads small enough to mount a missile that could threaten the U.S. □



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New effort to halt spread of HIV in the Caribbean

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— A handful of sex workers sit on discarded cardboard along a filthy sewer channel, sharing food and razors to shave their legs and faces as they prepare for the night's labor on the streets of Jamaica's capital.

Gay sex and prostitution is illegal in Jamaica, and LGBT people who sell sex face arrest or worse. But this normally wary group is welcoming on a recent evening as a volunteer descends into the open channel with condoms, lubricant and health advice. "It's hard living like this, but we're trying our best to stay safe and healthy. Nobody wants to get HIV," says one of the gay men, a shirtless 21-year-old who gives his name only as Kris.

In much of the world, giving out condoms and guidance to gay, bisexual and transgender sex workers is routine. But reaching out to men who have sex with men is practically revolutionary in parts of the English-speaking Caribbean, where homophobia and laws criminalizing gay sex have long driven people underground — turning them into the toughest group to reach with HIV prevention programs and fueling a regional epidemic.

Now, there's a growing momentum to turn the tide in Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana and eight other countries that criminalize sex between adults of the same gender. Even as funding grants get tighter, HIV prevention programs to reach men who have sex with men are scaling up and advocacy groups appear energized.

"We are in an entirely new

era," said Ernest Massiah, the Trinidad-based Caribbean director for the United Nations program on HIV and AIDS.

A clear sign of changing times is Jamaica's Color Pink Group, a nonprofit founded in 2011 whose existence would have been almost unthinkable on the island a decade ago. On a recent night, founder James Burton, one of very few Jamaican homosexuals who feel comfortable disclosing their full name, wore a loud pink shirt as he spoke about HIV prevention to a group of young gays outside a Kingston shopping mall.

"This is what was really lacking before: visibility and one-on-one connections," said Burton, whose group also provides vocational training and distributes condoms and lubricant.

But while societal acceptance of homosexuality is increasing, according to new polls commissioned by UNAIDS in eight Caribbean countries, the problem for gay men remains dire, even as the region has seen sharp declines in overall HIV infection for the population as a whole since 2000.

Around the globe, men who have sex with men generally face elevated levels of HIV infection compared to heterosexual men. But experts say Caribbean nations with high levels of stigma have disproportionately high rates. One study published in the medical journal Lancet in 2012 found that the HIV prevalence for them in the Caribbean is one of the highest documented rates in the world.

Overall, the Caribbean has the highest rate of HIV outside sub-Saharan Africa,



Homeless youths hang clothes on a metal bar running over a trash-strewn sewer canal where they live, by a busy road in Jamaica's capital of Kingston. They are part of a small group of young, gay and transgender Jamaicans who mostly sell sex to make money. Gay sex and prostitution is illegal in Jamaica, and LGBT people who sell sex face arrest or worse.

(AP Photo/David McFadden)

though both the overall and per capita numbers are much lower. Regional infection rates are highest

for men who have sex with men in countries with longstanding laws that criminalize gay sex.

In Jamaica, roughly 1.7 percent of the adult population has HIV, according to UNAIDS. But roughly 33 percent of men who have sex with men are believed to be infected on the island. It's the highest rate for that population in the Americas and one of the highest anywhere.

In a bid to tackle discrimination against gay men in the health care system, the rights group Jamaica Forum of Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays has partnered with a government HIV program to sensitize hospital and clinic staff to homosexuals' human rights. It can be as simple as training health workers not to narrow their eyes or cast judgment on any patient seeking a rectal exam. □

Mother's Day Menu
- Sunday May 11, 2014 -

Appetizer
Crabmeat crepe
Paper thin crepe dough with cream finished with hollandaise sauce on top

Manchebo green salad
Fresh mixed lettuce, tomato, cucumber and shredded carrots with choice of dressing

Seafood chowder
A mix of fish, squid, crabmeat, clams and shrimp creamy soup

Entrees
US Beef Tenderloin
Filet of beef tenderloin served with vegetables of the day, mashed potato and bordelaise sauce

Pan Fried filet of fresh Grouper
With ginger & lemon grass sauce, vegetables of the day and mashed potato

Pork Chop
The "black Angus" of pork served with chimichuri, pineapple relish, caramelized red cabbage and vegetables of the day

Land and Sea
5oz filet of beef with shrimps served with mashed potato and vegetables

Dessert
Homemade cheese cake with ice cream
or
Chocolate brownies with ice cream

Coffee or Tea

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European Central Bank hints at action in June

DAVID McHUGH
JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Central Bank President Mario Draghi strongly hinted Thursday that the eurozone's top monetary authority could take action next month to counter persistently low inflation and strengthen the recovery amid worries about the crisis in Ukraine.

The bank's 24-member rate council refrained from loosening its monetary policy on Thursday. But Draghi said it "would be comfortable with acting next time," in June, when it will have new staff inflation forecasts.

He added that the council "is not resigned to have too low inflation for too long a time."

Low inflation is a concern because it makes it harder for people and governments to reduce debt. There have also been worries about deflation, an extended drop in prices that can cripple growth by pushing consumers to delay purchases in hopes of bargains.

The crisis in Ukraine has only added to uncertainty for Europe's economies and helped push the euro up further as some investors in Eastern Europe put their money in eurozone ac-

counts, perceived as safer. A strong euro has helped push down inflation, which at 0.7 percent is well below the bank's goal of 2

the ECB and instead lend the money back into the economy.

— Buy bonds, either government or corporate,

the exchange rate by reducing returns on interest-bearing investments in that currency, and so reducing demand for the currency



A graffiti is painted on a fence around the construction site of the new headquarters of the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, Germany, Wednesday, May 7, 2014. The ECB is supposed to move into the building by the end of 2014. The Governing Council of the ECB met on Thursday. (AP Photo/Michael Probst)

percent. To help nudge it up, the ECB could, among other things:

— Cut its benchmark refinancing rate, currently at a record low of 0.25 percent.

— Charge a negative interest rate on bank deposits to discourage banks from parking their cash at

with newly printed money, though that step would be far more complicated.

A rate cut or bond purchases could lower inflation by driving down the euro's exchange rate. The stronger euro has contributed to inflation by making imports more expensive. Lower rates can push down

to make such investments. "Today's decision to leave interest rates unchanged was expected, but Mario Draghi's emphasis on the June staff forecast suggests a rate cut might be in the pipeline," said Tom Rogers, senior economic advisor to the EY eurozone forecast. □

China trade up in April, imports subdued again

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China's trade rebounded in April from the previous month's surprise contraction but imports were subdued in another sign of the country's economic slowdown. Customs data Thursday showed exports rose 0.9 percent, recovering from March's 6.6 percent decline. Imports rose 0.8 percent, up from the previous month's 11.3 percent decline.

China's leaders are trying to nurture growth based on domestic consumption to replace a worn out model reliant on investment and trade, but the country still needs strong exports to support employment. Their plans call for annual trade growth of 7.5 percent. Official data show total exports and imports down by 0.5 percent so far this year.

"We expect export growth to continue to improve in the coming months amidst gradually improving global demand momentum, but we do not expect a steep recovery," said RBS economist Louis Kuijs in a report. Weak global demand for Chinese goods has forced communist leaders to backtrack temporarily and launch mini-stimulus efforts last year and in March based on state-led investment in construction of railways, low-cost housing and other public works.

Analysts say this year's export growth probably is stronger than it looks. They say the figures suffer from comparison with last year, when exporters reported inflated values for goods as a way to evade Chinese currency controls and bring extra money into the country.

March exports were \$188.5 billion while imports were \$170.1 billion. The country's global trade surplus narrowed by 1 percent from a year earlier to \$18.4 billion. China ran a trade deficit in January and February before returning to a surplus of \$7.7 billion in March. □

Ousted Thai PM indicted over rice subsidy scheme

THANYARAT DOKSONE
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's anti-graft commission indicted ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Thursday on charges of dereliction of duty in overseeing a widely criticized rice subsidy program, a day after a court forced her from office.

Yingluck was accused of allowing the rice program, a flagship policy of her administration, to proceed despite advice that it was potentially wasteful and prone to corruption.

The National Anti-Corruption Commission's action had little immediate consequence following Yingluck's ouster from power a day earlier. But it is likely

to further poison a badly polarized political atmosphere. Many of Yingluck's supporters already believe that the country's conservative establishment is bending the rules to take back power.

A consistent string of decisions by the courts and independent agencies such as the anti-graft commission against Yingluck and her political machine has eroded many people's faith in the rule of law, raising the possibility of heightened civil unrest. Grenades were fired Thursday night by unknown people at three targets associated with the royalist establishment.

Rallies planned by Yingluck's opponents for Fri-

day and her supporters for Saturday will be a test of the political volatility.

The government lost billions of dollars on the rice subsidy plan, which also cost Thailand its position as the world's leading rice exporter as the artificially high prices forced the government to stockpile the commodity.

National Anti-Corruption Commission chief Panthep Klanarongran said the commissioners voted unanimously that there were enough grounds to indict Yingluck.

They said Yingluck, as head of government and in her capacity as chairwoman of the National Rice Policy Committee, failed to cancel the rice

subsidy scheme despite learning it could pose a great risk to the country's fiscal status.

"The NACC had submitted letters to warn the defendant twice that the project would create problems and incur great losses, as well as allow corruption to take place throughout every step of the scheme," Commissioner Vicha Mahakun told a news conference. "Yet the defendant did not consider suspending the project as soon as she learned about the country's great losses from running the project."

The commission, however, said it was unclear whether Yingluck was involved in corruption or had allowed it to take place. □



Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino proudly launch Mobile Check-In and Checkout

PALM BEACH - Marriott Rewards members can now check-in and checkout online at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino with Marriott's Mobile app. On May 6th, the Marriott mobile check-in and checkout feature was launched internationally at the Marriott Resorts. Aruba Marriott's first guests using the mobile check-in were honeymooners the Bryson's. Welcomed by management with a glass of champagne, front desk agent Shireen checked the couple in. "It was very easy and quick to make use of Marriott Mobile check in," said Mr. Bryson smiling. The new Mobile Check-



in offers Marriott Rewards Members the opportunity to check-in for their stay up to 24 hours in advance, select and update their anticipated arrival time, receive automatic notifications when your room is ready, visit the Mobile Check-In desk upon arrival for an enhanced arrival experience and to pick-up your room key and checkout with our app and skip the front desk. "Aruba Marriott Resort &

Stellaris Casino is proud to launch the Mobile Check-in and Checkout feature at our hotel to enhance the guest experience while staying up to date with our tech-savvy travelers," said director of Rooms Operations Liliana Ferraro. The Marriott Mobile app, which can be downloaded in the Apple iTunes Store and Google Play, makes it easier than ever to join Marriott Rewards, as well

as gain immediate access to mobile check-in and checkout at Marriott Hotels. Learn more about mobile checkout and download the app go to: <http://www.marriott.com/marriott/mobile-apps.mi> Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms each with private balconies overlooking cascading waterfalls, a free form swimming

pool and tranquil Caribbean waters. Guest exclusivity is attainable on the eighth floor through the Tradewinds Club, a boutique, 'hotel-within-a-hotel' concept that is paired perfectly with the new adults-only pool and lounge area. On property dining options range from light to elegant with seven restaurants and cafes, while entertainment and relaxation can be achieved in

the island's largest casino, or in the 6,500 square-foot spa. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 1.800.228.9290 or visit www.arubamarriott.com or www.tradewindclubaruba.com. Connect with the Aruba Marriott's official Facebook fan page by visiting www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott and follow on Twitter @qArubaMarriott. □

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Welcome Back Bugaloe Veterans Bobby and Sue!

PALM BEACH – This week we are back with the Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill Guests of the week! Aruba and Bugaloe Veterans Bobby and Sue Cantwell from Long Island, New York have been coming to our beautiful island every year for the last 25 years! That is a quarter decade of sun, fun and relaxation! While they're here, they like to stay at either the Riu or Divi Phoenix hotel, and literally never got bored visiting the island. When in Aruba, they like to spend their time chilling at the beach, discovering new restaurants, gambling and of course going to Bugaloe! Bobby and Sue discovered Bugaloe since

the first day it opened and just love the great view, great drinks and food and the impeccable fun, and crazy service. With their favorite drinks in hand, he a Heineken, she a Pina Colada, they love spending time at the bar talking with the boys from the crew, making jokes and having laughs. In the 25 years many fun memories were made. So many, that it's even too much to pin down to one favorite. The Bugaloe crew would just like to thank Bobby and Sue for being such loyal guests, and we hope to welcome them for another quarter decade of fun! ☐



Paul and Catherine Haight honored at the Divi Village



DRUIF BEACH - Paul and Catherine Haight have been coming to Aruba for 22 years and love this island especially for the weather and great beaches. A nice ceremony was held at the Divi Village to celebrate 22 consecutive visits

to Aruba. For this reason the Haight's were presented with the "Goodwill Ambassador" certificate. Present at this ceremony was Ms. Gloria Defoe with the guest relations department at the Divi Village. ☐

Beauty On The Beach

Estefania Torcat

She is from Caracas Venezuela
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VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne attracts legal talent (back) to the Caribbean

ORANJESTAD - Caribbean law firm VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne launches a recruitment campaign in the Netherlands to hire young talent. A special characteristic is the requirement for a connection to the islands is a requirement for the graduates the firm is looking for, and an advantage for the young professionals. In the campaign "Lawyer in the Caribbean", the firm shows what the legal profession at VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne encompasses. With the use of selfies, young Caribbean lawyers are asked to think about where they feel at home: The campaign is communicated mainly via social media. Besides the usual media such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, the up and coming app Vine is also used in the campaign. Vine plays six-second movies in a continuously repeating loop. Colleagues of the firm also play a role by uploading their real-life selfies. Everything is combined on the central platform www.advocaatindecariben.nl.

The recruitment and selection procedure also has special aspects. There is no need for an application letter; all interested candidates are invited to introduce themselves in person. For starters this is done with a central introduction day with group sessions and individual sessions, and lawyers with three to five years of experience -that the firm also looks for- can plan an introduction meeting themselves with an associate of their choice, without obligations. The actual application takes place in one day, so that all candidates know within one week whether they can prepare to leave for the tropics.

The organization with over 70 employees has won awards for its human resources policy before. The goals and the level of ambition are high. Partner Mayesi Hammoud, responsible for HR: "Our firm is looking for top talent that understands the local mar-

ket and culture. We offer them a broad professional development. This way, we contribute to fighting the brain drain the islands experience but we also experience that those who have roots on the islands settle easier and remain associated with our firm longer. This makes the considerable invest-

ment in the traineeship period we make as a firm more realistic." The firm recruits graduates as well as lawyers with three to five years of experience. Of course, legal graduates and professionals that are already based in the region are more than welcome to apply as well. □



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EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Costa Linda Beach Resort as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for

20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Patricia Smith, Mr. Bob and Linda Richard and Mr. Horst and Kate Dreyer, all the honorees are loyal members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, casinos, great

entertainment and being on Aruba and staying at the Costa Linda is like being home for them.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Swinda Hengeveld and Mrs. Gloria Janga representing the Costa Linda Beach Resort. □



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No surprises: Clowney taken 1st by Texans

BARRY WILNER,
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Houston Texans have made South Carolina University defensive end Jadeveon (jah-DAY'-vee-ahn) Clowney the first pick in the NFL draft. Considered a budding NFL star even when he was a freshman, Clowney brings size, speed and power to a Texans lineup that already has 2012 NFL Defensive Player of

the Year J.J. Watt.

But his work ethic has been questioned after he slipped from 13 sacks to just three in 2013. Critics said he was protecting himself from injury before declaring early for the draft. Houston previously made the top pick in two drafts, taking quarterback David Carr in 2002. He never lived up to that billing. They took DE Mario Williams in 2006, but he left for Buffalo in 2012. □



South Carolina defensive end Jadeveon Clowney arrives for the first round of the 2014 NFL Draft with his mother Josenna Clowney, Thursday, May 8, 2014, in New York. Associated Press

Kaymer ties course record with a 63 at Sawgrass

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Former PGA champion Martin Kaymer equaled the course record with a 9-under 63 to take a two-shot lead over Russell Henley on Thursday in the opening round of The Players Championship. Kaymer missed only two fairways. He putted for birdie on all but one hole and finished with four straight birdies to become only the fourth player to shoot a 63 on the Stadium Course at the TPC Sawgrass.

There were 28 rounds in the 60s, which made the score by Adam Scott look even worse. With another chance — his best one yet — to get to No. 1 in the world for the first time, Scott finished with a pair of double bogeys from shots in the water and signed for a 77. It was his highest opening round at The Players since his first trip in 2002. Kaymer was flawless, hitting whatever shot he felt he needed.

His final blow was a hybrid that ran through the ninth green and into a bunker, leaving a simple up-and-down for birdie.



Martin Kaymer, right, of Germany, talks to his caddy Craig Connelly before hitting from the eighth tee during the first round of The Players championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass, Thursday, May 8, 2014 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Associated Press

Continued on Page 19

Thunder and Pacers both win to square series

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook had a triple-double and newly-crowned MVP Kevin Durant almost did the same as the Thunder's stars shone in a 112-101 win over the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday which tied their NBA Western Conference semifinal series at 1-1. In the day's other game, Roy Hibbert shook off his previously underwhelming playoff form and led Indiana to an 86-82 win over Washington which also squared their series at 1-1. Westbrook had 31 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists to claim his third triple-double in his past five playoff games. Durant had 32 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists before leaving the game with 1:21 remaining.

If Durant had provided just one more assist, they would have been the first teammates to ever record triple-doubles in the same playoff game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. J.J. Redick scored 18 points, Chris Paul had 17 points and 11 assists, and Blake Griffin added 15



Indiana Pacers' Roy Hibbert (55) puts up a shot against Washington Wizards' John Wall (2) during the second half of game 2 of the Eastern Conference semifinal NBA basketball playoff series Wednesday, May 7, 2014, in Indianapolis. Indiana won 86-82.

Associated Press

points for the Clippers, who will host Game 3 on Friday. Serge Ibaka and a surprisingly productive Thabo Sefolosha each scored 14

points for the Thunder, who shot 51 percent from the field and outrebounded the Clippers 52-36. The Clippers made 15 of 29

3-pointers in Game 1, but just 9 of 27 in Game 2.

Durant scored 17 points in the first quarter on 7-for-11 shooting to help the Thunder take a 37-28 lead. Paul, who scored 17 points in the opening quarter of Game 1, went scoreless in the first quarter of Game 2 and watched most of the period from the bench with two fouls.

In the second quarter, both Westbrook and coach Scott Brooks were called for technical fouls after arguing against a non-call. The Clippers made both free throws, then Paul made a 3-pointer and the visitors went ahead when Griffin connected on a jump shot with just over 4 minutes remaining in the first half.

The Thunder closed the half strongly and took a 61-56 lead into the break.

Oklahoma City found an unlikely path to the basket in the third quarter when defensive stopper Sefolosha broke out for 12 points in the period to help the Thunder take a match-winning 94-77 advantage into the fourth.

Meanwhile, Roy Hibbert

overcame his lackluster playoffs with a season-best 28 points and nine rebounds to lead the Indiana Pacers to an 86-82 victory over the Washington Wizards on Wednesday to level the Eastern Conference semifinals at 1-1.

It was a stark contrast to Hibbert's abysmal, scoreless showing in Monday's loss — and most of this year's playoffs.

But after hearing 48 hours of constant criticism and continual questions, Hibbert responded with the kind of game Indiana desperately needed.

He made his first four shots, dominated the middle and produced big basket after big basket.

Game 3 is Friday in Washington.

Marcin Gortat had 21 points and Bradley Beal added 17 for the Wizards.

Washington took a 77-74 lead with 5:01 left in the game. Indiana scored six straight and never trailed again.

Washington had won all four of its previous road playoff games — three at Chicago and Monday night in Indy. □



Los Angeles Clippers' guard Jamal Crawford is presented with the 2013-14 NBA Sixth Man of the Year during a news conference at the Los Angeles Clippers Training Center in Los Angeles, Thursday, May 8, 2014.

Associated Press

Jamal Crawford of Clippers wins NBA sixth man

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jamal Crawford of the Los Angeles Clippers won the NBA sixth man award on Thursday, becoming the oldest recipient and the first to do so with different teams.

The 34-year-old guard also was honored as the league's best player off the bench while with the Atlanta Hawks in 2009-10. Crawford led the league's reserve players in scoring this season, averaging 18.6 points.

He came off the bench in 45 of 69 games he played in, helping the Clippers to a 57-25 record, their best regular-season mark in franchise history.

The Clippers had a 31-14 record when Crawford came off the bench. The Clippers and Oklahoma City are 1-1 in their Western Conference semifinal.

"He won it because voters saw him doing other things for the team — playing defense, running the team at the point guard position when Chris Paul was out at times," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said last week, when The Associated Press first reported Crawford won. "He's been the perfect utility player for a team. He's been awesome."

Crawford set the single-season franchise record for 3-pointers made with 161. That surpassed his record from last season, his first in Los Angeles, when he was

runner-up for the sixth man award.

Crawford received 57 first-place votes and 421 total points from a panel of 125 sports writers and broadcasters throughout the U.S. and Canada. He joined Kevin McHale, Ricky Pierce and Detlef Schrempf as two-time winners.

Taj Gibson of Chicago finished second with 395 points, and San Antonio's Manu Ginobili was third with 138.

Crawford had his best month in January, scoring in double figures in 15 of 16 games and helping the Clippers go 12-4 that month.

He missed 13 games in March and April because of injury. □

Kaymer

Continued from Page 17

He had a 29 on the back, the first player in the 32-year history at Sawgrass to break 30 on either nine. Roberto Castro also opened with a 63 last year. The only others with

Shanghai at the end of 2011. He hasn't had a top 10 all year. But the 29-year-old German has felt his swing start to come together in recent weeks. His name has been featured on leaderboards more and more. "I stopped thinking," Kaymer said, a former world No. 1. "I thought a lot

when I needed to hit it.' If it's a draw, if it's a fade, low or high, I know that I can do it. It's just a matter of getting the confidence on the golf course and then letting it happen and really doing it." Henley, who won the Honda Classic in a four-way playoff in March, made birdie on half of his holes to atone for one big mistake. He hooked a tee shot into the water on No. 7 and compounded that with a three-putt for double bogey. But he answered with six birdies on the back nine for a 65. "I knew I was playing well and felt really comfortable on the greens," Henley said. "But it was one of those back nines where you get to 18 and I just realized that I had a putt for 7 under. So that was pretty cool."

Bae Sang-Moon had a 66. The group at 67 included Sergio Garcia, who spent last year in a war of words with Tiger Woods that lasted right up until the Spaniard hit three balls into the water on the two closing holes and Woods walked away with the win. Garcia looked sharp, happy and was confident in his game. And he had loads of company. Lee Westwood, 20-year-old Jordan Spieth and U.S. Open champion Justin Rose also were at 67. The group at 68 included Ernie Els and Dustin Johnson. There were 67 rounds under par, and the scoring average of 71.99 was the eighth-lowest for an opening round at The Players Championship. Rory McIlroy made three bogeys over his last sev-

en holes and tumbled to a 70. That was nearly as bad as Phil Mickelson. Coming off a 76 in the final round at Quail Hollow last week, he started his round by missing a 3-foot par putt and shot 75. Of the four players with a mathematical chance to reach No. 1, only Masters champion Bubba Watson broke 70. He had a 69, while Henrik Stenson and Matt Kuchar each had a 71. Only four players had a worse score than Scott. Kaymer reached No. 1 three years ago, and then sought to change his swing because he could only hit a fade. He prefers to play by feel, not by mechanics. A swing change left him little choice but to think too much. Now, he can only hope it's as simple as see the shot and hit the ball. □



Russell Henley raises his hand after making par on the eighth hole during the first round of The Players championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass, Thursday, May 8, 2014 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Associated Press

63 were Greg Norman in the first round in 1994, and Fred Couples in the third round in 1992. "It's just a nice bonus," Kaymer said. "It's only the first round of a long, long tournament. It's nice to make some history. No one shot 29 on that golf course before." Kaymer would not have seemed like a good candidate. He has not won since the HSBC Champions in

the last two years about swing changes ... that every shot I made I reflect on it, what I did wrong, what I did right." A few weeks before the Masters, he spent time with longtime swing coach Gunter Kessler in Phoenix, and then they had another good session in Germany. "And then it just clicked a little bit," he said. "I thought, 'OK, I know I can hit pretty much every shot

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Wainwright, Cardinals breeze past Braves 7-1

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Adam Wainwright pitched eight strong innings, Matt Holliday drove in three runs and Peter Bourjos homered to lead the St. Louis Cardinals past the Atlanta Braves 7-1 on Wednesday.

Wainwright (6-2) helped himself, leading off the third with a double and coming around to score. Holliday broke it open with a two-out, two-run single in the fourth.

Wainwright bounced back from his worst start of the season, having surrendered 10 hits and six runs to the Cubs. He allowed six hits, struck out six and was lifted after throwing 103 pitches on Wednesday.

Bourjos hit his first homer of the season in the second off Mike Minor (0-2). Minor lasted just 4 1-3 innings, roughed up for 11 hits and six runs.

One night after breaking a seven-game losing streak, their longest in nearly two years, the Braves fell again. **MARLINS 1, METS 0**

MIAMI (AP) — Marcell Ozuna hit a sacrifice fly with one out in the ninth inning as the Miami Marlins completed a three-game sweep of the New York Mets.

Miami's Tom Koehler gave up two hits in eight innings. Steve Cishek (3-1) pitched



St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Adam Wainwright (50) delivers a pitch to an Atlanta Braves batter in the third inning of a baseball game, Wednesday May 7, 2014, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

a perfect ninth.

The Marlins went 8-1 on their homestand, a franchise record for a nine-game stay. The Mets have lost six of seven.

Giancarlo Stanton singled — only the third hit for Miami — to start the ninth against Carlos Torres (2-1). Casey McGehee walked on a 3-2 pitch, and Stanton took third on a flyout.

Kyle Farnsworth relieved and Ozuna, who had struck out in his previous three at-bats, hit a fly to center field-

er Juan Lagares. His throw home was slightly off-line, and the ball skipped away from catcher Anthony Recker as a sliding Stanton tagged the plate with his left hand.

PIRATES 4, GIANTS 3

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Gerrit Cole won for the first time in nearly a month as the Pittsburgh Pirates beat San Francisco.

Cole (3-2) outpitched Tim Lincecum (2-2) for the second time in his 11-month major league career, al-

lowing three runs and seven hits in eight innings with seven strikeouts and a walk. Fill-in closer Mark Melancon worked a perfect ninth for his second save in three chances.

Ike Davis had three hits for the Pirates. Brandon Belt hit his ninth homer and drove in all three runs for San Francisco.

NATIONALS 3, DODGERS 2
WASHINGTON (AP) — Stephen Strasburg recovered from another rough first inning to pitch into the eighth

and Wilson Ramos produced a go-ahead sacrifice fly in his first game since opening day as the Washington Nationals edged the Los Angeles Dodgers.

After waiting through a rain delay of more than 1½ hours to throw his first pitch, Strasburg (3-2) did what he's done all season: struggled to get the first three outs, then been fairly dominant.

This time, he gave up four consecutive singles, including run-scoring hits by Adrian Gonzalez and Yasiel Puig, during a 28-pitch first as Los Angeles went ahead 2-0.

Then Strasburg got into a groove, while his teammates scored three runs off former Nationals pitcher Dan Haren (4-1).

Rafael Soriano threw a perfect ninth for his seventh save in seven chances.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer for the second straight game to back Bronson Arroyo and lead the Arizona Diamondbacks over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Goldschmidt hit his seventh homer after Martin Prado led off the third with a single. Goldschmidt went 7 for 15 in a three-game series. □



Seattle Sounders' Kenny Cooper, left, watches his shot hit the net after getting by FC Dallas goalkeeper Raul Fernandez, right, Wednesday, May 7, 2014, in the second half of an MLS soccer match in Seattle.

Associated Press

Seattle beats Dallas 2-1, extends MLS lead

The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle extended its lead atop the Major League Soccer standings to five points with a 2-1 home win over Dallas on Wednesday, with Kenny Cooper's 88th minute goal delivering the Sounders' fifth-straight win.

Less than two minutes after coming on as a substitute, Cooper received a pass from Obafemi Martins and struck it first time, high into the net for the winner. Martins also set up Lamar Neagle for the equalizer in the

62nd minute.

The Sounders are unbeaten in six games and came from behind to collect points in five of them.

Brazilian forward Michel had given Dallas the lead when he converted a penalty in the 16th minute.

HOUSTON 1, COLUMBUS 0
Houston's Will Bruin scored early in the second half to give the Dynamo victory over visiting Columbus.

Bruin headed home a Brad Davis free kick in the 50th minute.

Columbus' Justin Meram

came close to an equalizer in the 84th minute, when his shot from outside the box hit the post. The Crew are winless in their past six games.

SAN JOSE 0, COLORADO 0
Colorado held on for an away point by restricting San Jose to a scoreless draw.

Avalanche goalkeeper Clint Irwin made several key saves, most critically in the 88th minute when he got enough of a touch on a Chris Wondolowski shot to push it onto the post. □

AL Capsules

Tigers win 8th straight, 3-2 over Astros

DETROIT (AP) — Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer and the Detroit Tigers won their eighth straight game, beating the Houston Astros 3-2 Wednesday night.

The Astros lost its fifth in a row.

Cabrera connected in the first inning. A day earlier, he homered in a four-hit, four-RBI performance. Victor Martinez homered, extending his hitting streak to 10 games for the three-time defending

victory over Texas in as many nights.

Arenado's two-run double in the first inning put the Rockies ahead to stay and equaled teammate Michael Cuddyer's record streak from last season.

Carlos Gonzalez homered for Colorado, which has outscored Texas 29-5 in three games this week. The Rockies won 8-2 and 12-1 at home with a combined 34 hits before the teams shifted to Texas for two games.

Every starter had a hit for the Rockies, who finished with 16 and got 12 of them in 3 2-3 innings off Colby Lewis (2-2).

Jorge De La Rosa (4-3) struck out four and walked three. The lefty gave up two runs over six innings.

ORIOLES 4, RAYS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Adam Jones hit a pair of solo homers and Jonathan Schoop launched a tiebreaking, two-run shot that sent the Baltimore Orioles over the Tampa Bay Rays.

Schoop's drive in the seventh inning off Brandon Gomes (2-2) put the Orioles



Detroit Tigers pitcher Rick Porcello throws against the Houston Astros in the first inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Wednesday, May 7, 2014.

Associated Press

ahead 4-2.

Jones hit leadoff homers in both the second and fourth off Cesar Ramos. It was his fourth multihomer game.

David DeJesus homered for the Rays, who are 0-4 against the Orioles this season.

Ryan Webb (1-0) went 1 1-3 scoreless innings for the win. Tommy Hunter struggled for the second straight game, pitching the ninth for his 10th save.

INDIANS 4, TWINS 3

CLEVELAND (AP) — Mike Aviles' two-out single in the ninth inning lifted the Cleveland Indians over the Minnesota Twins.

Asdrubal Cabrera led off the inning with a double against Casey Fien (3-1).

After Lonnie Chisenhall's sacrifice bunt, Yan Gomes

grounded out. Aviles hit a hard grounder into center field for Cleveland's first walk-off win of the season — the Indians had 11 walk-off wins last season.

John Axford (1-3), who had allowed game-winning home runs in his previous two outings, survived a shaky ninth.

RED SOX 4, REDS 3

BOSTON (AP) — Will Middlebrooks hit an RBI single with the bases loaded, capping a two-run rally in the eighth inning that sent the Boston Red Sox over Cincinnati Reds for a sweep of the two-game interleague series.

David Ortiz and Mike Napoli also drove in runs for the World Series champion Red Sox, who reached .500 for the first time since the

fourth game of the season. Craig Breslow (2-0), who also got the win in Tuesday's game, pitched one hitless inning. Koji Uehara struck out the final three batters for his eighth save.

J.J. Hoover (1-4) took the loss.

BLUE JAYS 10, PHILLIES 0

TORONTO (AP) — Mark Buehrle became the first six-game winner in the majors, Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer and the Toronto Blue Jays beat Philadelphia for the seventh straight time.

Erik Kratz and Juan Francisco both hit two-run homers for the Blue Jays, who blew open a pitcher's duel between Buehrle and Cliff Lee (3-3) with a nine-run, 12-batter seventh inning. □

NHL Roundup

Pens win 3rd straight, take 3-1 lead over Rangers

NEW YORK (AP) — Brandon Sutter scored a short-handed goal to break a second-period deadlock as the Pittsburgh Penguins moved within one win of the Eastern Conference finals with a 4-2 victory over the New York Rangers on Wednesday.

Pittsburgh, which has won three straight following a series-opening loss, can advance with a Game 5 victory at home Friday.

Evgeni Malkin scored 2:31,



and Jussi Jokinen made it 3-1 at 7:02 of the third before the teams traded late goals. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 13 shots.

The only negative for the Penguins was that Fleury allowed a goal for the first time in three games. Carl Hagelin's tying tally in the second period was the Rangers' first goal in 145 minutes, 30 seconds of playing time.

Mats Zuccarello backhanded in a goal with

6:53 left to cut the Rangers' deficit to 3-2, on only their second shot of the third, but Chris Kunitz restored Pittsburgh's two-goal edge 57 seconds later.

Henrik Lundqvist made 23 saves in the loss.

The weary Rangers played for the sixth time in nine nights, and not even a full day of rest on Tuesday or the return of forward Chris Kreider helped them. Kreider played for the first time since breaking his left hand a month ago. □

Andy Murray loses in 3rd round at Madrid Open

PAUL LOGOTHETIS

AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Andy Murray hit error after error Thursday and was eliminated from the Madrid Masters in the third round.

The Wimbledon champion was overwhelmed by the 46th-ranked Santiago Giraldo 6-3, 6-2. Murray's play was erratic throughout the match against the Colombian qualifier, who earned his first career victory against a top-10 player in 20 attempts.

The eighth-ranked Murray mentioned his split from coach Ivan Lendl alongside his "inconsistent" play. "My coach is missing. That's quite a big part of my team," Murray said. "I didn't envision a finish like that. I need to sit down and think about that the next couple of days and see what I need to do."

Defending champions Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams had little trouble reaching the quarterfinals at the clay-court tournament, both winning in straight sets.

Nadal hadn't lost a quarterfinal on clay in nine years until last month in Monte Carlo, and he repeated the disappointing feat in Barcelona.

On Thursday, Nadal let a 3-1 lead in the second set slip before beating Jarkko Nieminen of Finland 6-1, 6-4.

"For one hour probably I was playing the best tennis that I played for the last three weeks," Nadal said. "After that I committed er-



Andy Murray from Britain returns the ball during a Madrid Open tennis tournament match against Santiago Giraldo from Colombia in Madrid, Spain, Thursday, May 8, 2014.

rors, so what I need to do is find more consistency."

Nadal will next face sixth-seeded Tomas Berdych, who beat Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Berdych hasn't beaten Nadal since a 2006 meeting in Madrid, which was marked by jeering and angry exchanges between the players.

"He'll be a big test for me," Nadal said. "What happened is in the past. It was one of the few times I had problems inside a court."

Also, Japanese player Kei Nishikori improved to 8-0 on clay this season with a 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5) win over Milos Raonic of Canada. Nishikori next faces local favorite Feliciano Lopez who advanced when Austrian qualifier Dominic Thiem withdrew before the match due to an unspecified illness. Thiem upset Stanislas Wawrinka in the second round.

Fifth-ranked David Ferrer contained John Isner's big serve — holding the Ameri-

can to just six aces — and used a break in each set to win 6-4, 6-4.

Williams earned her 650th career victory with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Carla Suarez Navarro. Williams, in pursuit of her 60th title, hit 27 winners to her Spanish opponent's five.

"She made me work for every point and it wasn't an easy win," the top-ranked American said. "She just won last week, so she is definitely not an easy player to play."

Williams will next face 2011 champion Petra Kvitova. The fifth-seeded Czech beat Lucie Safarova 6-4, 6-3. Also, Australian Open champion Li Na and Maria Sharapova will meet in the quarterfinals after both won their third round matches. After a poor opening set, the second-ranked Li overcame a slew of unforced errors and a bothersome toe problem to beat Sloane Stephens of the United States 2-6, 6-3, 6-2. □

Associated Press



In this July 1, 2006, file photo, Andre Agassi, of the United States, hugs Rafael Nadal, of Spain, after their third-round tennis match at Wimbledon.

Associated Press

Agassi says Nadal is greatest ever tennis player

SINGAPORE (AP) — Andre Agassi says Rafael Nadal should be considered the greatest tennis player ever, not Roger Federer.

Agassi made the comments in an interview with Singapore newspaper Straits Times, saying Nadal's achievements are more impressive because he has

had to deal with tougher opponents.

Federer has 17 Grand Slam titles to Nadal's 13, although the Spaniard leads his Swiss rival 23-10 in head-to-head meetings.

Agassi is quoted as saying that "I'd put Nadal No. 1, Federer No. 2," adding that "it's just remarkable to me

what he has done, and he has done it all during Federer's prime."

The former No. 1 says "Nadal had to deal with Federer, (Novak) Djokovic, (Andy) Murray in the golden age of tennis.

He has done what he has done and he's not done yet." □

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Hawaiians spur STD app's name change

JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A sexual health information app called "Hula" will be changing its name after complaints that it is culturally insensitive to Native Hawaiians, the app's owner said Tuesday.

Ramin Bastani, founder and CEO of Los Angeles-based Qpid.me Inc., said that after weeks of learning to understand concerns of the Native Hawaiian community, he's moving forward with the name change.

"We immediately engaged the community and listened with an open mind," he said. "By doing so, we gained a great respect for hula, the Hawaiian culture and its history." An online petition asking him to change the name argued that it exploits a sacred cultural dance. Bastani previously said the name would remain, even after the petition gained some attention in March, but he immediately removed any references to "getting lei'd" in marketing the app.

"As we continued to listen and learn, we realized this is the right thing for us to do," he said. Recently, the controversy seemed to die down, he said, but that "quiet period" allowed the company to "truly reflect." Bastani apologized to anyone who was offended by the name.

"That was absolutely never our intent," he said.

On Friday, the state Senate Hawaiian Affairs Caucus and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs issued a statement calling the name "highly insensitive, tactless and inappropriate." □

U.S.: Snapchat deceived customers

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Snapchat has agreed to settle with the Federal Trade Commission over charges that it deceived customers about the disappearing nature of messages sent through its service and collected users' contacts without telling them or asking permission.

Snapchat is a popular mobile messaging app that lets people send photos, videos and messages that disappear in a few seconds.

But the FTC says Snapchat misled users about its data collection methods and failed to tell users that others could save their messages without their knowledge.

Snapchat has said that it notifies users when a recipient takes a screenshot of a "snap" they've sent.

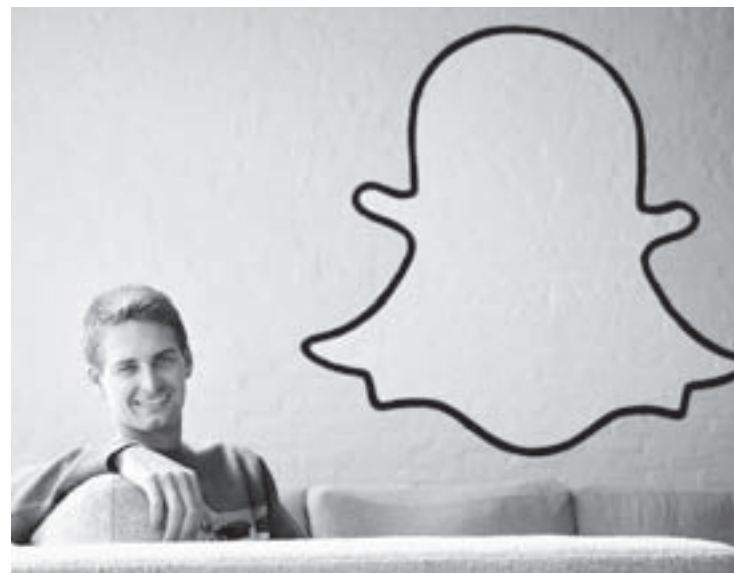
But the FTC said recipients with an Apple device that runs an operating system that predates iOS 7 could evade the app's screenshot detection.

Apple's iOS7 launched last summer.

In addition, the FTC says Snapchat's app stored video snaps that were not encrypted on the recipient's device. The videos remained accessible to the recipient, the agency said.

A user could access a video message, even after it supposedly disappeared, if the user simply connected the phone to a computer and accessed the video in the device's file directory. The FTC complaint also alleges that Snapchat failed to secure its "find friends" feature.

A security breach in January allowed hackers to collect the usernames and phone numbers of some



In this Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013, Snapchat CEO Evan Spiegel poses for photos, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

4.6 million Snapchat users. The breach occurred after security experts warned the company at least twice about a vulnerability in its system.

Snapchat later issued an update to its app that fixed the issue and allowed users to opt out of the "find friends" feature.

The settlement doesn't have a financial compo-

nent, but if Snapchat is found to violate the agreement, the company could end up paying a civil penalty of up to \$16,000 for each violation. The Los Angeles startup reportedly turned down a \$3 billion buyout offer from Facebook last fall.

The FTC said Snapchat agreed to settle without admitting or denying any wrongdoing. □

Dish aims to launch Web TV service by year's end

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dish says it plans to launch its Internet-delivered TV service by year's end on mobile devices, game consoles and smart TVs for about \$20 to \$30 a month. It will contain live sports, entertainment and children's programming.

That's a lot less than the typical pay TV package that Dish Network Corp. sells to its 14.1 million satellite TV subscribers, but it will have far fewer channels.

The aim is to make a TV product appeal to young adults who love sports and have kids but won't pay \$100 a month for TV, Dish

Chairman Charlie Ergen told analysts and reporters on a conference call Thursday.

Dish and The Walt Disney Co. signed a deal in March that made live ESPN, ABC and Disney Channel streams available for such a service. Ergen said enough other programmers have come on board to launch the service today. However, the technology isn't ready, he said.

"We have enough programming contracts to launch the service now," Ergen said. He said it would take more time to create technology to insert targeted commercials on mobile devices and track view-

ing. "There's a few things we have to invent that will take us some time, so we're looking at something by the end of the year," he said.

Dish CEO Joe Clayton said the target audience is young adults aged 18 to 35 who are urban, well-educated, and would likely spend \$20 to \$30 a month to watch about 20 to 30 channels.

The Dish executives' comments came after Dish reported that it gained 40,000 traditional satellite TV subscribers in the quarter through March and saw revenue rise 6 percent to \$3.59 billion. But net income fell 18 percent to \$175.9 million, or 38 cents per share,

as expenses also rose. The results were short of the 43 cents of earnings analysts expected and shares fell.

Ergen said the Internet TV service would not likely have a big impact on earnings immediately and noted that the traditional pay TV business was "hanging in there pretty well."

He said it was a bet on the future in case the pay TV business takes a sudden turn. "It's a bit like the lobster that gets boiled," he said. "You don't really know you are dead and boiled until it's too late. Dish is just a company that would rather be out front and make some mistakes and be ahead of the curve." □

Wall Street closes mostly lower; Energy, utilities tank

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market finished mostly lower on Thursday as investors assessed the latest batch of company earnings and sold utility and energy stocks. Tesla, a maker of electric

cars, fell after reporting a first-quarter loss and saying it would need to invest more in its business. Companies that pay steady dividends and have a long record of profitability, such as utilities, have surged this year, benefiting from a shift in sentiment

as investors sold previously high-flying Internet and small-company stocks. A sell-off in these stocks could be a troubling sign for the overall market. "The market's still pretty sloppy," said Quincy Krosby, a market strategist at Prudential Financial. "The

fear in the market is that the selling spreads to the defensive stocks, the safe havens and that could bring down the whole market."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 2.58 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,875.63. The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 32.43 points, or 0.2 percent, to 16,550.97. The Nasdaq composite lost 16.18 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,051.50.

Utility companies in the S&P 500 fell 1.2 percent, paring their gains this year to 12.5 percent. Energy stocks dropped 1.3 percent.

Stocks had started the day higher as investors looked over earnings reports and after some encouraging news on hiring.

The U.S. government reported that the number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell 26,000 last week to 319,000, the latest sign that the job market is slowly improving. The drop follows two weeks of increases that reflected mostly temporary layoffs around the Easter holiday. Keurig Green Mountain was among the big gainers after report earnings. The maker of specialist coffees climbed \$11.98, or 13 percent, to \$104.19 after its earnings exceeded analysts' estimates. Keurig, known for its single-serve

coffee brewing system, said late Wednesday that its net income climbed 22 percent in its fiscal second quarter.

Twenty-First Century Fox was another winner. The company's stock rose \$2.10, or 6.5 percent, to \$34.22 after it also reported earnings that surpassed analysts' expectations. Fox's television unit got a boost from higher advertising revenue during the National Football League playoffs and the Super Bowl.

Tesla was among the day's losers.

The company, which makes electric cars, reported a \$49.8 million first-quarter loss late Wednesday and said that spending on investments would weigh on earnings later this year. Tesla now sells only one car, the Model S, which starts at \$70,000, but it's working on two other vehicles, an electric crossover SUV called the Model X and a lower-cost model. The company's stock fell \$22.76, or 11.3 percent, to \$178.59.

Almost 90 percent of companies in the S&P 500 have now reported first-quarter earnings.

Overall earnings are expected to grow by 3.3 percent in the quarter, according to data from S&P Capital IQ. That compares with growth of almost 8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013 and 5.2 percent in the same period a year ago.

Revenue also grew in the first quarter, rising 3.3 percent versus 1.6 percent growth in the fourth quarter, a positive sign that companies are experiencing stronger demand. Some investors believe that companies are still relying too much on cost-cutting to generate earnings growth.

"Those kind of cost-reduction strategies only go so far before you do need to have more top-line growth, and it remains to be seen whether companies can continue to grow in what remains, by many measure, a slow-growing economy," □



Trader Edward Curran rushes across the New York Stock Exchange floor. The stock market finished mostly lower on Thursday as investors assessed the latest batch of company earnings and sold utility and energy stocks.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Fannie, Freddie post solid earnings for 1Q

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government-controlled mortgage financiers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac posted solid earnings for the January-March period as the U.S. housing market continued to recover. Gains over recent quarters have enabled the companies to fully repay their taxpayer aid after being rescued by the government in 2008. Fannie Mae reported Thursday that it earned \$5.3 billion in the first quarter. Fannie will pay a dividend of \$5.7 billion to the U.S. Treasury next month. With its previous payments totaling about \$121 billion, Fannie has more than fully repaid

the \$116 billion it received from taxpayers.

Freddie Mac posted net income of \$4 billion for the first quarter. Freddie, based in McLean, Virginia, will pay a dividend of \$4.5 billion to the government. Freddie already had repaid its full government bailout of \$71.3 billion after paying its third-quarter 2013 dividend. The government rescued Fannie and Freddie at the height of the financial crisis in September 2008 when both veered toward collapse under the weight of losses on risky mortgages. Together the companies received taxpayer aid totaling \$187 billion.

The gradual recovery of

the housing market has made Fannie and Freddie profitable again. Their repayments of the government loans helped make last year's federal budget deficit the smallest in five years. Fannie, which is based in the nation's capital, said its first-quarter profit was bolstered by a stable stream of revenue from the fees it charges banks and other mortgage lenders for guaranteeing home loans. The company said it expects "to remain profitable for the foreseeable future." The \$5.3 billion earnings compared with record net income of \$58.7 billion in the same period of 2013. The year-ago figure was

mainly due to a one-time accounting move that allowed the company to lower its tax liability by applying losses on delinquent mortgages to its 2013 taxes. Freddie's \$4 billion net income compared with \$4.6 billion in the first three months of 2013. Earnings were bolstered in the latest period by a decline in mortgage delinquencies, Freddie said.

Under a federal policy, Fannie and Freddie must turn over their entire net worth above \$2.4 billion in each quarter to the Treasury. Fannie and Freddie said their net worth in the first quarter was \$8.1 billion and \$6.9 billion, respectively. □

McDonald's US sales flat during April

OAK BROOK, Ill. (AP) — McDonald's says a key sales metric was flat in April in the U.S., as the world's largest hamburger chain worked to fend off competitors and improve service in its restaurants.

Global sales at locations open at least 13 months rose 1.2 percent, boosted by stronger performance overseas.

Back at home, McDonald's Corp. has been dealing with intensifying competition from long-time rivals like Burger King and Wendy's, which have revamped their menus and stepped up marketing.

It's also facing a shift in eating habits, with places such as Chipotle positioning itself as a higher quality alternative to traditional fast-food.

Over the past year, McDonald's executives have also conceded that the chain introduced too many items too quickly, which resulted in slower service and inaccurate orders.

But CEO Don Thompson has said the company is working with franchisees to address those problems, in part by ensuring restaurants have appropriate staffing.

Looking ahead, the company plans to underscore popular items like the Big Mac in advertising. It's also emphasizing its breakfast menu as rivals such as Taco Bell look to take a bigger share of the growing breakfast market.

For April, sales rose 2.9 percent in the unit encompassing the Middle East, Africa and the Asia Pacific, helped by results in China. Europe sales rose 0.3 percent, lifted by results in the United Kingdom and growth in France.

McDonald's, based in Oak Brook, Illinois, has more than 35,000 locations around the world.

Its shares slipped 27 cents to \$101.69 in afternoon trading Thursday. Its shares had been up almost 6 percent so far this year though Wednesday's close. □

Barclays to scrap 14,000 jobs this year

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Barclays PLC, the scandal-hit British bank, is to cut 14,000 jobs this year in an attempt to streamline operations and reduce the importance of the investment banking division. It said Thursday that further reductions will be made at the investment banking arm over the next two years, taking the total number of reductions at the bank to 19,000 by 2016.

The 325-year old bank, which is Britain's second largest by assets, is undergoing a culture change after a string of scandals, including its involvement in the rigging of the Libor interbank lending rate.

Chief Executive Officer Antony Jenkins has made restoring trust a centerpiece of his mission in reforming the bank — and the invest-

ment banking division has been one of his primary targets because of the risky behavior it undertook before the 2008 financial crisis. Jenkins underscored his wish to slim down operations and pledged to make Barclays "more balanced."

"Barclays will be much less exposed to volatility in our investment bank; we will have a structurally lower cost base; and we will continue to invest for growth," he said in a statement. "We will be leaner, simpler and stronger."

The move further unravels the legacy of Bob Diamond, who expanded the investment banking arm before becoming CEO. His unapologetic attitude and colossal pay package made him the focus of much of the fury toward bankers in Britain once the scandals hit, and he was forced to resign.

Investment banking took the brunt of the job cuts, with 7,000 by 2016. Barclays said the division would account for no more than 30 percent of operations in the future — as opposed to half today.

Barclays is also creating a "bad bank" unit, which will house 90 billion pounds (\$152 billion) of investment bank assets and 16 billion pounds of European retail banking assets. The hope is that the assets can be wound down or sold off eventually and to increase confidence in the overall health of Barclays.

The bank is also streamlining geographically, closing customer branches in Portugal, Spain, Italy and France, though it highlighted prospects in Africa, described as "an exciting, growing part of the world."

Investec analyst Ian Gordon

said Thursday's decisions should help improve the bank's underlying performance.

"Barclays is already a low-risk, profitable bank, but today's 'reset' is about right-sizing the bank to reflect a smaller addressable (investment bank) revenue pool and to deliver improved/sustainable returns," he said. But the stark job numbers will give British leaders pause. Barclays has faced criticism in the past for ramping up its bonus pool, even as it prepared to cut jobs.

Dominic Hook of the Unite trade union, said that times had been turbulent for the bank's workers, "who have worked hard to keep the bank on track against a backdrop of continued uncertainty and redundancies." "The bank needs to recognize their tireless work," he said. □

Wendy's cuts costs, 1Q results top Street

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Wendy's reported a sharply higher profit for its first quarter on Thursday as the hamburger chain saw lower costs and an improvement in sales.

The results beat Wall Street estimates, and its stock rose nearly 6 percent higher in premarket trading. Sales at established company-owned restaurants climbed 1.3 percent as a result of successful product promotions and improved traffic at remodeled locations, Wendy's said.

At franchised locations, the figure rose 0.6 percent. Wendy's Co., based in Dublin, Ohio, attributed the stronger performance at its company-run locations to the higher number of remodeled stores, which the company has been pushing aggressively as a way to position itself as a more premium fast-food chain.

CEO Emil Brolick said the solid performance was particularly rewarding given an extremely rough winter that cut down on foot traffic, on top of already intense competition in the sector.

For the quarter ended

March 30, Wendy's earned \$46.3 million, or 12 cents per share. That compares with \$2.1 million, or 1 cent per share, a year earlier. The improved profit was

Removing non-repeating items, earnings were 7 cents per share. Analysts surveyed by FactSet predicted earnings of 5 cents per share.

\$8.81 before the market opened.

The restaurant operator stood by its outlook for 2014 adjusted earnings between 34 and 36 cents per



This photo shows a Wendy's single hamburger with cheese combo meal at a Wendy's restaurant in Pittsburgh. Wendy's reported solid quarterly earnings on Thursday, May 8, 2014.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

partly the result of a reduction in total costs and interest expenses. The company also booked \$8.6 million on the sale of some restaurants, as well as a gain on the sale of other surplus properties.

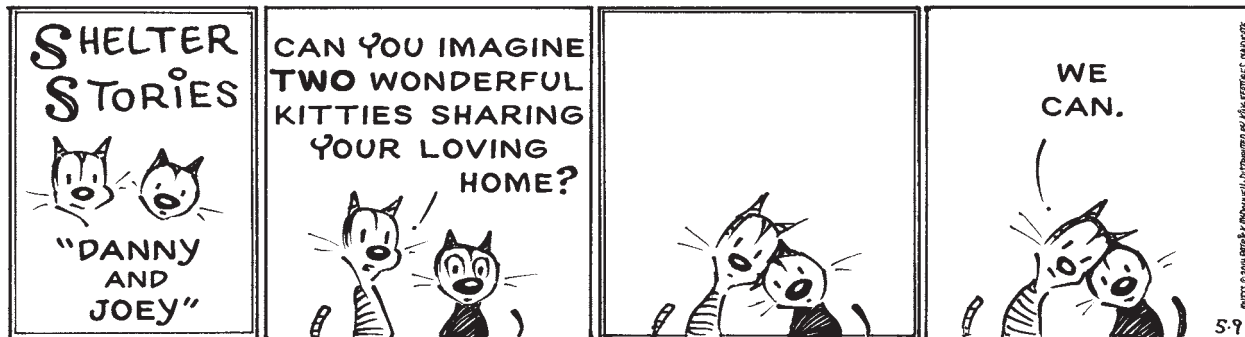
Revenue declined 13 percent to \$523.2 million due to the sale of 418 company-run restaurants, but that was still better than the \$502.7 million Wall Street expected.

Shares rose 48 cents to

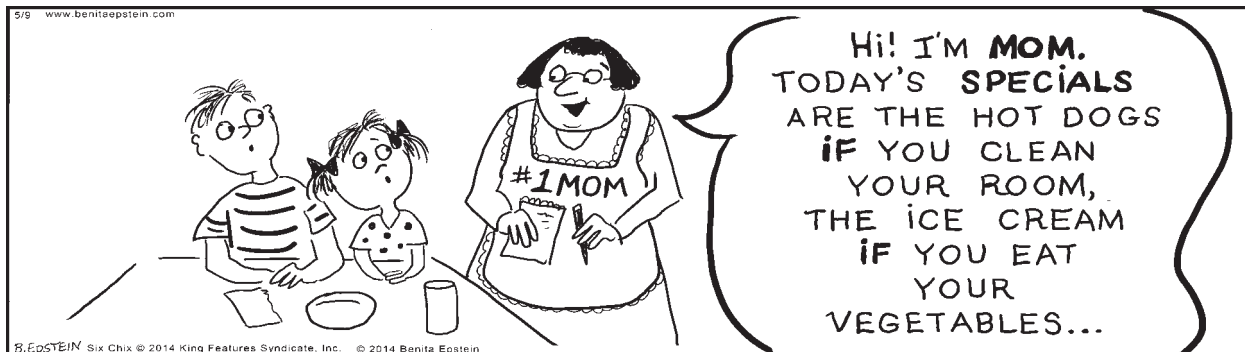
share. Long term, Wendy's still anticipates mid-teens growth in adjusted earnings per share.

Wendy's has more than 6,500 restaurants, with the majority of those in the U.S. □

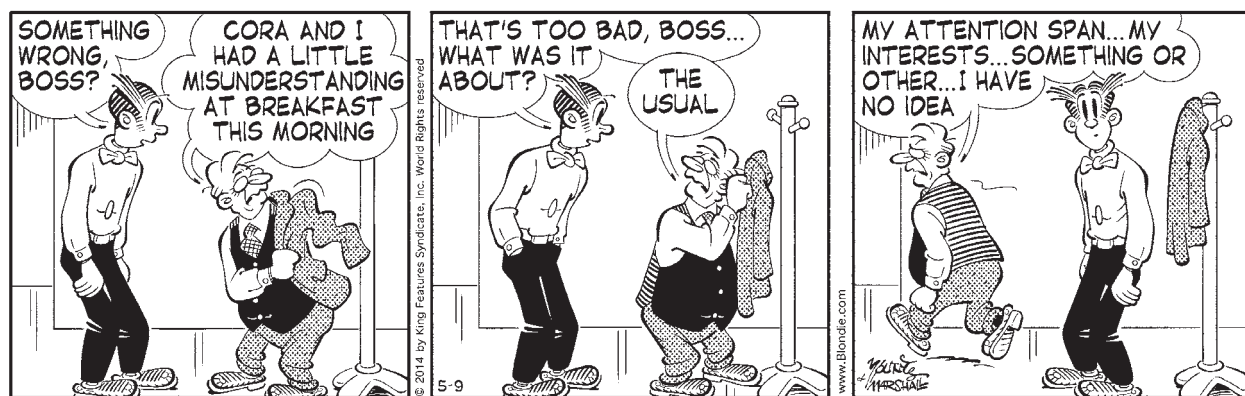
Mutts



6 Chix



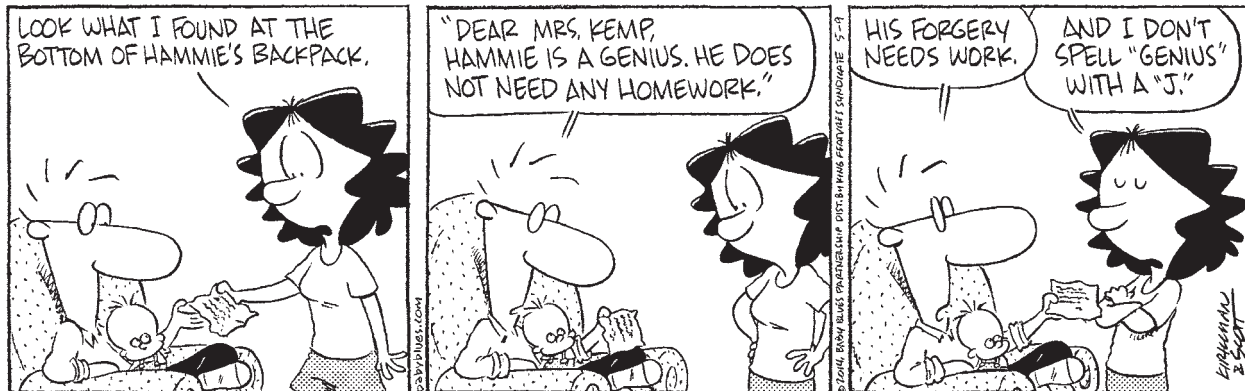
Blondie



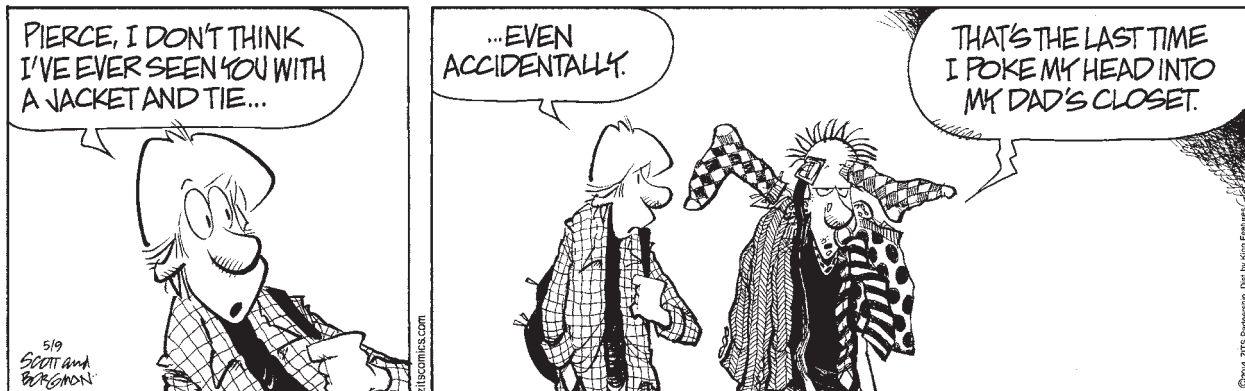
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4		6			1		
5				4		2		
					2		5	6
2						8		
	1						3	
		7						4
1	6		2					
		4		3				1
		9			8		7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	5	8	3	7	1	4	2	6
6	1	2	9	4	8	5	3	7
7	4	3	5	2	6	8	9	1
3	8	7	1	5	9	2	6	4
4	6	5	2	8	7	3	1	9
2	9	1	6	3	4	7	5	8
8	3	6	7	1	5	9	4	2
5	7	9	4	6	2	1	8	3
1	2	4	8	9	3	6	7	5

ACROSS

- Steam; mist
- ___ up; makes sense
- ___ off; severs
- Savvy
- Sea World performer
- Help when you shouldn't
- ___ away; dismisses
- Casino game
- "The ___ Ranger"
- Highly respected
- Lubricate
- Once more
- Walk leisurely
- Slender
- Possessed
- Salary
- Put on, as a theater act
- ___ Duck
- On ___ own; independent
- More tender to the touch
- Actor's part
- Examinations
- Fight off
- Truly, in the bible
- Underground plant parts
- Not as sick as previously
- Covered porch
- Trait transmitter
- ___ a wrong; get even
- Result of a high fever, perhaps
- ___ back; relaxed
- Actress Rue
- Uneven
- Fringe's place
- ___ on; incite
- Memos
- Take care of
- Upper limbs
- Garbage

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16		
17					18					19		
20					21			22	23			
			24				25					
26	27	28				29						
30				31	32			33		34	35	36
37			38		39			40		41		
42			43		44			45		46		
			47		48			49		50		
51	52	53					54					
55							56			57	58	59
60					61	62			63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/9/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	V	A	L	A	R	V	A	C	H	A	R
O	N	E	S	I	L	I	A	D	H	O	B	O
K	E	G	S	V	I	C	T	O	R	I	O	U
E	W	E	B	E	A	K	E	M	P	T	Y	
	T	E	A	R	S		M	A	E			
S	H	A	B	B	Y		T	U	C	S	O	N
H	O	B	B	Y		B	E	A	C	H		V
O	W	L	S		C	O	A	C	H		F	E
P	I	E		S	H	O	R	T		B	O	R
	E	S	T	E	E	M		D	R	E	S	S
			E	L	F			H	O	I	S	T
L	E	G	A	L		T	I	D	E		A	Y
U	N	A	S	S	U	M	I	N	G		S	T
A	D	Z	E		S	I	E	G	E		H	E
U	S	E	S		A	D	D	E	R		E	S

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5/9/14

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 40 Refuse to obey | 53 Rule |
| 43 Melody | 54 ___ up; readies |
| 45 Not at all strict | 56 Percussion instrument |
| 48 Ukrainian seaport | 57 Smidgen |
| 50 Paralyzing fear | 58 ___ up; spends |
| 51 Parking lot attendant | 59 Netting fabric |
| 52 Dodge | abbr. |

DOWN

- Bouquet holder

Antibiotic-resistant germs, lying in wait everywhere

CARL ZIMMER

© 2014 New York Times

The Lechuguilla Cave in New Mexico is a network of chambers stretching 1,600 feet underground. The bacteria that grow on the walls of its most remote recesses have been living in complete isolation for more than 4 million years. In 2010, Gerry Wright, a microbiologist at McMaster University in Ontario, ran an experiment on those long-lost bacteria. He and his colleagues doused them with antibiotics, the drugs that doctors have used for the past 70 years to wipe out bacterial infections. But many of the Lechuguilla bacteria would not die. "Most of them were resistant to something," Wright said. Some strains, he and his colleagues found, could resist 14 commercially available antibiotics. Wright's discovery didn't fit the conventional story of antibiotics. Antibiotics were introduced in the mid-1900s. Each time a new drug was introduced, it would take years before bacteria that could resist it became common.

In the decades since, this trend has turned into a crisis. Last week, the World Health Organization reported that antibiotic resistance is now a major threat to public health across the entire planet. "We will soon hit the wall," warned Joseph Nesme, a microbiologist at the University of Lyon in France.

At first, the antibiotics crisis seemed like a simple story of evolutionary cause and effect. Whenever bacteria reproduce, there's a tiny chance that a mutation will emerge that lets them resist an antibiotic. When we take that antibiotic, the mutant microbes can thrive while susceptible bacteria die.

If that were all there was to the story, the Lechuguilla Cave bacteria should have been easy targets. Cut off from the world, they never had a chance to evolve resistance to our drugs. But Wright discovered that

they were already prepared. They had many genes that allowed them to survive what should have been a fatal dose of antibiotics.

Their resistance hinted that antibiotic-resistance genes were not just the product of modern medicine, but an ancient part of nature. Now a new study from Nesme and his colleagues reveals just how widespread resistance is.

To carry out their study, Nesme and his colleagues took advantage of the fact that many teams of scientists are gathering huge amounts of DNA from all over the world. They've cataloged millions of genes, and made them available in online databases.

Nesme and his colleagues searched the databases from 71 of those places - everywhere from Antarctic ice to the bottom of the ocean. They looked for genes that were similar to the ones that disease-causing bacteria use to resist antibiotics.

As the authors report in the journal *Current Biology*, they hit the jackpot. "We find them in all environments," Nesme said.

Wright, who was not involved in the research, said that Nesme's study confirms the work that he and his colleagues have been doing. "This paper reinforces that resistance is everywhere," he said.

Scientists are puzzled about why resistance genes should be so old and so widespread. If the genes didn't evolve recently to fight against modern medicine, what are they doing in other bacteria?

They're probably doing a lot of things. Bacteria make their own antibiotics, for example, which they sometimes use to fend off competitors. Some of their competitors have evolved ways to resist those deadly molecules.

In addition, some resistance genes can be found in antibiotic-producing bacteria themselves. □

Classifieds

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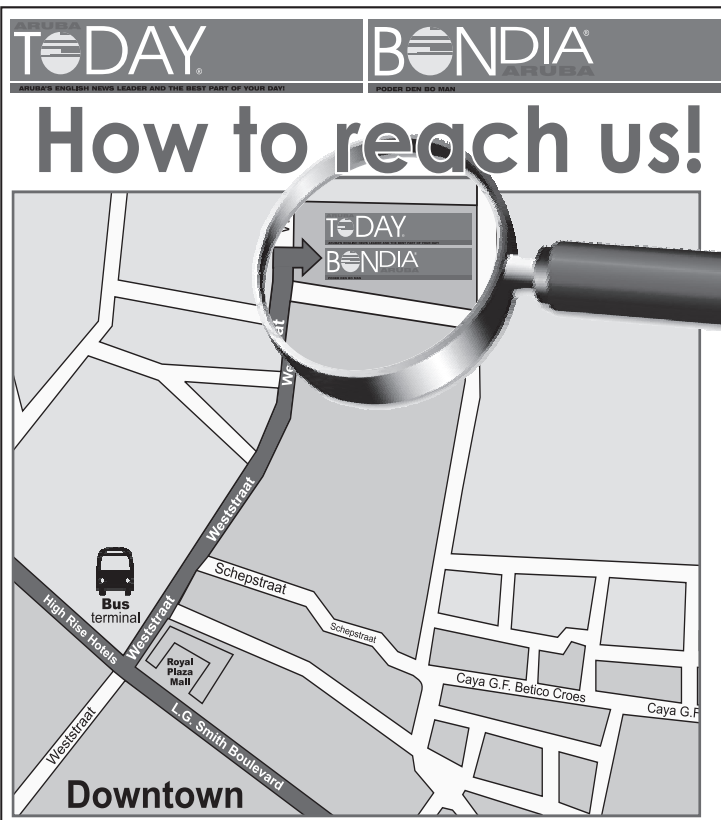
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New frog species found in troubled Indian habitat

KATY DAIGLE

AP Environment Writer

NEW DELHI (AP) — Scientists have discovered 14 new species of so-called dancing frogs in the jungle mountains of southern India — just in time, they fear, to watch them fade away. Indian biologists say they found the tiny acrobatic amphibians, which earned their name with the unusual kicks they use to attract mates, declining dramatically in number during the 12 years in which they chronicled the species through morphological descriptions and molecular DNA markers. They breed after the yearly monsoon in fast-rushing streams, but their habitat appears to be becoming increasingly dry.

"It's like a Hollywood movie, both joyful and sad. On the one hand, we have brought these beautiful frogs into public knowledge. But about 80 percent are outside protected areas, and in some places, it was as if nature itself was crying," said the project's lead scientist, University of Delhi professor Sathyabhama Das Biju.

Biju said that, as researchers tracked frog populations, forest soils lost moisture and perennial streams ran inexplicably dry. He acknowledged his team's observations about forest conditions were only anecdotal; the scientists did not have time or resources to collect data demonstrat-



This undated photograph shows one of the 14 new species of so-called dancing frogs discovered by a team headed by University of Delhi professor Sathyabhama Das Biju in the jungle mountains of southern India.

Associated Press

ing the declining habitat trends they believed they were witnessing.

The study listing the new species — published Thursday in the Ceylon Journal of Science — brings the number of known Indian dancing frog species to 24. They're found exclusively in the Western Ghats, a lush mountain range that stretches 1,600 kilometers (990 miles) from the western state of Maharashtra down to the country's southern tip.

Only the males dance — it's actually a unique breeding behavior called foot-flagging. They stretch, extend and whip their legs out to the side to draw the attention of females who

might have trouble hearing mating croaks over the sound of water flowing through perennial hill streams.

They bigger the frog, the more they dance. They also use those leg extensions to smack away other males — an important feature considering the sex ratio for the amphibians is usually around 100 males to one female. "They need to perform and prove, 'Hey, I'm the best man for you,'" said Biju, a botanist-turned-herpetologist now celebrated as India's "Frogman" for discovering dozens of new species in his four-decade career.

There are other dancing frogs in Central America and Southeast Asia, but the Indian family, known by the scientific name Micrixalidae, evolved separately about 85 million years ago. Biju and his team had long been baffled about the frogs' mating patterns, after searching years around

the forest floor for egg clutches without success. But one late October day in 2011 they witnessed a rare tryst, and saw the female immediately bury her eggs once fertilized. This confirmed the frogs were indeed breeding only after stream levels had come down, and underlined how vulnerable they might be to changes in rainfall or water availability.

These are tiny, delicate frogs — no bigger than a walnut — and can easily be swept away in a gushing mountain stream. So breeding happens only once the level of a stream levels drops to the point where the water babbles over boulders and stones, he explained. If streams hold less water or dry out too early, the frogs get caught without the right conditions to breed.

"Compared with other frogs, these are so sensitive to this habitat that any change might be devas-

tating for them," Biju said. "Back in 2006, we saw maybe 400 to 500 hopping around during the egg-laying season. But each year there were less, and in the end even if you worked very hard it was difficult to catch even 100."

The Western Ghats, older than the Himalayas, is among the world's most biologically exciting regions, holding at least a quarter of all Indian species. Yet in recent decades, the region has faced a constant assault by iron and bauxite mining, water pollution, unregulated farming and loss of habitat to human settlements.

A 2010 report by India's Environment Ministry also said the Ghats were likely to be hard-hit by changing rainfall patterns due to climate change, and more recent scientific studies have also suggested monsoon patterns will grow increasingly erratic. India's government has been working to establish a vast environmental protection zone across the Ghats to limit polluting industrial activities and human encroachment, but it put the latest proposal on hold earlier this year.

Meanwhile, as India's population has grown to a staggering 1.2 billion, at least 25 percent of the forests have vanished from the Ghats, which is now home to more than 325 of the world's threatened species of plants, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish.

Many of these newly discovered frogs could soon be joining them, Biju said. Many of the 24 known Indian dancing frog species lives only in a single, small area. □

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Herbie Hancock memoir set for Oct. 28 release



In this Monday, Sept. 30, 2013, file photo, Herbie Hancock arrives at the LA Philharmonic's Walt Disney Hall 10th Anniversary Celebration at Walt Disney Concert Hall, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Herbie Hancock's memoir is set to come out in October. Publisher Viking announced Thursday that the Grammy-winning musician's book, titled "Herbie Hancock: Possibilities," has a release date of Oct. 28. The memoir will be co-written by Lisa Dickey, who has also worked on books by Jane Lynch and Cissy

Houston.

Hancock's deal with Viking was first announced in 2012. A former member of Miles Davis' band, the 74-year-old Hancock is known for such compositions as "Rockit" and "Cantaloupe Island."

He is one of the few jazz performers to achieve widespread success with pop audiences. □

Sellars and Berry share Sweden's Polar Music Prize

STOCKHOLM (AP) — U.S. rock legend Chuck Berry and American opera director Peter Sellars have been awarded the 2014 Polar Music Prize,

Sweden's most prestigious award for musicians. The prize committee on Thursday praised the 87-year-old Berry as a "rock 'n' roll pioneer"

and said every solo played by rock guitarists over the last 60 years contains his DNA.

It said Sellars has showed that classical music is not about dusty sheet music, but "a way of reflecting and depicting the world."

The laureates will receive 1 million kronor (\$154,000) each from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf at a ceremony in Stockholm on Aug. 26.

The award was founded by late ABBA manager Stig Anderson and is typically shared by a pop artist and a classical musician. □

Back to Broadway for Hugh Jackman after hosting Tonys

JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Hugh Jackman says he's jacked to host the Tony Awards for the third time, but fans of his stage work won't have to wait long to see the Tony-winning star onstage again.

"I'm going back to Broadway. I'm doing a play called 'The River,' a Jez Butterworth play. So I'm really looking forward to treading the boards here on Broadway," Jackman told the Associated Press on Thursday.

The very intimate play, the first since Butterworth's "Jerusalem," is about a trout fisherman in a remote cabin who is visited by two of the women in his life. It was first seen in London in 2012. But before that, it's the Tony Awards for Jackman on June 8.

"It's like the Olympics for an athlete or the Super Bowl for a football player. You want to do your best, and, of course, you only get one shot at it. But they're the things you look back at the end of the day and



This Nov. 3, 2013 file photo shows actor Hugh Jackman at the Broadway opening of "After Midnight" in New York.

Associated Press

say, 'I'm glad I had a go at that,'" Jackson said of the annual awards ceremony that celebrates the best in theater.

"I've done it three times, the Tonys. For me it's one of the best shows out there. It is one of the most exciting, generous audiences you can ever get at Radio City Music Hall," Jackman said. "I never take for granted how lucky I am

to be embraced by that community. After all, I'm an Aussie, but I've always felt at home there."

The new play will be Jackman's fourth on Broadway. He was last there with a one-man show in 2011 that routinely sold out the 1,176-seat Broadhurst Theatre. He also starred in "The Boy From Oz" in 2003 and the play "A Steady Rain" with Daniel Craig in 2009. □

Jay Leno to host award ceremony in Israel



Hall of Fame inductee Jay Leno speaks on stage at the 2014 Television Academy Hall of Fame on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at the Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Jay Leno sees a small silver lining in the recent collapse of U.S.-backed Mideast peace talks: It should make his job just a little easier

when he performs in front of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later this month. "I guess any American that's not John Kerry is more than welcome there right now," Leno said.

The late night legend is heading to Israel on May 22 to host the awards ceremony of the \$1 million Genesis Prize in Jerusalem. Former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg is being honored as the first recipient of what has been dubbed "the Jewish Nobel Prize" for his years of public service and philanthropy. Netanyahu will headline a list of more than 400 dignitaries in the audience that will include business leaders, Nobel laureates, philanthropists and entertainers. Grammy-winning pianist Evgeny Kissin will also perform. Leno said he will run his jokes by the "appropriate people" ahead of time to avoid saying anything inappropriate. □

Josh Hartnett buys into TV, 'Penny Dreadful'

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A big reason film actors are drawn to TV is that it offers the sort of character-driven projects found less and less in a movie world tilted toward blockbusters.

That's partly why Josh Hartnett jumped into "Penny Dreadful," an eight-part series debuting Sunday on Showtime (10 p.m. EDT) as part of a free preview weekend. He plays a troubled American, a gun for hire, ensnared by Victorian London's dark side in the horror drama-cum-psychological study.

Hartnett also appreciated the guarantee that the project would be marketed and presented to an audience, something he's become painfully aware isn't always the case with independent films.

"I've had worthy films not get a correct release, and have people come up to me later and say how much they enjoyed the film," seen after the fact online or on DVD, he said. "It's gratifying to know that people go back and see stuff," he said. "But it would be more gratifying to be part of the cultural dialogue and (know) that it (a project) had an impact when it was released."

Hartnett was in his early 20s when he made a splash in 2001 with two major Hollywood movies, "Pearl Harbor" and "Black Hawk Down," part of a varied slate for him that year that included the Warren Beat-

ing."

The actor is seeking other rewards now, those he said that have "less to do with climbing the Hollywood ladder" and more to do with personal and professional growth.

Billion," with veterans Frank Langella and Gena Rowlands in the cast.

But Hartnett's profile was reduced as some films suffered spotty or delayed releases. His starring role in "Penny Dreadful" has put

just crazy. ... I was doing work I thought was worthy."

But he's fine with the renewed attention. "Being 35 and not 18, I'm less susceptible to the negative aspects" — given the satisfactions of working on "Penny Dreadful."

(It's his second TV series, and after a long absence. He co-starred in "Cracker: Mind Over Matter" in 1997-99.)

The foremost attraction for Hartnett was working with creator-executive producer John Logan, a Tony Award-winner for "Red" and an Oscar-nominated screenwriter whose credits include "Gladiator," "Hugo" and "Skyfall," and executive producer Sam Mendes, the "American Beauty" Oscar-winning director.

The series they have wrought is an undeniable creepfest. Its title is drawn from the nickname for cheap, 19th-century publications that offered serialized tales of violence, death and general sensationalism.

Showtime's version finds renowned and rich explorer Sir Malcolm Murray (Timothy Dalton) and the mysterious Vanessa Ives (Eva Green) in the hunt for a monstrous killer. □



This photo released by Showtime shows Josh Hartnett as Ethan Chandler in season 1 of "Penny Dreadful." Associated Press

ty comedy "Town & Country" and "O," a modern take on "Othello."

"It's really exciting to have a big movie release," said Hartnett. "Everybody should be so lucky to have that experience. You feel like the whole world's focused on you for a little while, and it's overwhelm-

"I thought if you're doing interesting work, interesting people will want to work with you. So far, I've been lucky enough to have that happen," said Hartnett, who offers carefully chosen words with a slow, low-pitched cadence.

One example: An upcoming sci-fi drama, "Parts Per

him squarely back in the publicity spotlight and, he says, has led to some media confusion.

"The narrative that's been created over the last couple months is that I disappeared, and I was some hermit for the last few years and joined a cult or something," he said. "It's

Netflix makes push into documentaries

NEW YORK (AP) — Netflix is making a push into documentaries, with the subscription service announcing deals on Thursday to premiere four new films in the next few months.

Netflix has always made non-fiction films available to subscribers, but until recently they have been projects initially made for theatrical release or on television networks. Netflix said it now wants filmmakers to make their work specifically for the service, or use Netflix to offer the first wide distribution.

The first of the four new films to be released will be "Battered Bastards of Baseball," about a defunct mi-

nor league baseball team. It will premiere on Netflix on July 11.

"Mission Blue," a documentary about marine biologist Sylvia Earle and her campaign to create a network of protected marine sanctuaries, is set for Aug. 15. Later this year the service will premiere "E-Team," a film about human rights workers from the makers of the Oscar-winning documentary "Born Into Brothels," and "Print the Legend," about 3-D printing.

Lisa Nishimura, head of Netflix's documentary unit, said the service is intentionally trying to present films on a wide variety of topics. Its selling point to filmmakers



This image released by Netflix shows a scene from "E-Team," a documentary film about human rights workers. Associated Press

is that Netflix will make the documentaries available on the service for a lengthy

period of time. TV networks and theatrical releases can offer a bigger burst of

attention, but the films are generally only available for a short period. □

The Streamlined Life



DAVID BROOKS
© 2014 New York Times

Every year researchers at UCLA do a survey of incoming college freshmen. These surveys, conducted for more than four decades now, show how the life cycle has changed in the past couple of generations.

This first thing you see from this and similar data sets is that high school has gotten a bit easier. In 1966, only about 19 percent of high school students graduated with an A or A- average. By 2013, 53 percent of students graduated with that average.

The grades are higher even though, for many, the workload is lighter. As late as 1987, nearly half of high school students reported doing at least six hours of homework a week. By 2006, less than a third of all students reported doing that much work. In 1966, 48 percent of students said they sometimes showed up late to class. By 2006, more than 60 percent of students said they sometimes showed up late.

If the high school world is lax, that changes when the college admissions process starts. It's not only that college admissions are more competitive; students begin to be haunted by fears about their job market prospects.

If you go back and read oral histories conducted in the 1950s and 1960s, you'd be amazed by how benign the labor market seemed back then. People would announce that they were moving to a new city and assume they'd be able to find decent work after they got there.

That image of a benign job market is pretty much gone (as expectations about what constitutes a good job have risen). Even incoming college freshmen seem to fear they will not find lucrative and rewarding work. Harsh economic thinking plays a much bigger role in how students perceive their lives. Their parents feel that anxiety even more acutely.

In the first place, they are very conscious of how much college costs. In 1974, 77 percent of students enrolled in their collegiate top choice. By 2013, only 57 percent were able to. Cost is a very important factor in why students decided to stay away from their favorite school.

Second, they see college much more as job training than stu-

dents before. In 1976, 50 percent of freshmen said they were going to college in order to make more money. By 2006, 69 percent of freshmen said that. Since 2005, the number of students who say they are going to college to get a better job has spiked upward. Their overall values change. In 1966, only 42 percent of freshmen said that being well-off financially was an essential or very important life goal. By 2005, 75 percent of students said being well-off financially was essential or very important. Affluence, once a middling value, is now tied as students' top life goal. As the drive to compete intensifies, other things get streamlined away. In 1966, 86 percent of college freshmen said that developing a meaningful philosophy of life was essential or very important. Today, less than half say a meaningful philosophy of life is that important. University of Michigan studies suggest that today's students score about 40 percent lower in measures of empathy than students did 30 years ago.

I'm not sure if students really are less empathetic, or less interested in having meaning in their lives, but it has become more socially acceptable to present yourself that way. In the shadow of this more Darwinian job market, it is more acceptable to present yourself as utilitarian, streamlined and success-oriented. Psychologically, the effect of all this is complicated. In 1985, only 18 percent of freshmen said that they felt overwhelmed by all they had to do. By 2013, 33 percent said they felt overwhelmed. In 1985, 64 percent of students said they ranked in the top 10 percent or at least above average in terms of mental health. But today, students admit to being much more emotionally vulnerable. They also declare low levels of spiritual self-confidence. At the same time, one gets the sense they are trying to armor up, in preparation for the rigors to come. They assert their talents. They rate themselves much more highly than past generations on leadership skills, writing abilities, social self-confidence and so on. For example, in 2009, roughly 75 percent of freshmen said they had a stronger drive to achieve than their average peers. Human nature hasn't changed much. The surveys still reveal generations driven by curiosity, a desire to have a good family, a good community and good values. But people clearly feel besieged. There is the perception that life is harder. Certainly their parents think it is harder. The result is that you get a group hardened for battle, more focused on the hard utilitarian things and less focused on spiritual or philosophical things; feeling emotionally vulnerable, but also filled with résumé assertiveness. The inner world wanes; professional intensity waxes. □



Honoring the Missing Schoolgirls



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
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When Boko Haram fanatics attacked a girls' boarding school in northeastern Nigeria, kidnapping several hundred girls whose only offense was to dream of becoming doctors, teachers or lawyers, the Nigerian authorities' initial response was to lie.

The military promptly claimed that it had freed 107 of the girls. In fact, it had done nothing, and, the girls' parents say, it has continued to do little for the three weeks since.

Meanwhile, we in the news media world were also largely indifferent, too busy reporting non-news like the latest on the missing MH370 airliner. The American government, the United Nations and other players didn't seem interested either.

Yet if world leaders and the news media dropped the ball, leadership came elsewhere. More than 50 of the kidnapped girls managed to escape the gunmen. Dads armed with nothing more than bows and arrows pursued the kidnappers into the terrifying Sambisa forest, where militants have hide-outs. Women's rights advocates in Nigeria noisily demanded action, and social media mavens around the world spread word on Twitter, Facebook and online petitions - and a movement grew.

The #BringBackOurGirls hashtag, started on Twitter by a Nigerian lawyer, has now been shared more than 1 million times. A Nigerian started a petition on Change.org, calling for more efforts to find the girls, and more than 450,000 people around the world have signed it.

Nigerian women embarrassed the government by announcing that they would strip off their clothes and march naked into the Sambisa forest to confront the militants and recover the girls. All this grass-roots activism finally catapulted this news - three weeks later - onto the global agenda. President Barack Obama weighed in this week and sent a team of security experts to help. Nigeria has offered a \$300,000 reward for information about the girls, and the government finally seems to have been embarrassed into making them a priority.

It's reasonable to be skeptical, for Nigerian officials have been as feckless as Nigerian activists have been brave. According to The Associated Press, a military barracks an hour from the school was alerted to the attack, but troops never showed up.

Then Nigeria's first lady, Patience Jonathan, accused activists of fabricating the kidnappings. She reportedly had a female protest leader detained.

It's not clear if this global clamor will succeed, and two girls already have reportedly died of snakebites. But the United States might be of help locating the girls. For example, some reportedly have been taken to an island in Lake Chad. There are few people on the islands (the area all used to be underwater) and limited vegetation, so satellite imagery or reconnaissance aircraft might be able to locate any girls there.

In the past, Nigeria's army, while reluctant to fight Boko Haram militants directly, has gone after young men it thinks might sympathize with the group - rounding up and sometimes killing them,

thus driving more villagers toward Boko Haram. It's entirely possible that some families that lost a daughter to Boko Haram will now lose a son to the army, but outspoken U.S. monitoring can help limit atrocities.

All of us can respond more directly. Boko Haram, whose name means roughly "Western education is a sin," is keeping women and girls marginalized; conversely, we can help educate and empower women. Ultimately, the greatest threat to extremism isn't a drone overhead but a girl with a book.

So here's a challenge.

Mother's Day is this Sunday, and, by all means, let's use it to celebrate the moms in our lives with flowers and brunches. But let's also use the occasion to honor the girls still missing in Nigeria.

One way is a donation to support girls going to school around Africa through the Campaign for Female Education, Camfed.org; a \$40 gift pays for a girl's school uniform.

Another way to empower women is to support Edna Adan, an extraordinary Somali woman who has started her own maternity hospital, midwife training program and private university, saving lives, providing family planning and fighting female genital mutilation. At EdnaHospital.org, a \$50 donation pays for a safe hospital delivery.

Or there's the Mothers' Day Movement, mothersdaymovement.org, which is supporting a clean water initiative in Uganda. With access to water, some girls will no longer have to drop out of school to haul water.

We inevitably feel helpless when terrible things happen, but these are practical steps to fight a blow against extremism while honoring some of those brave Nigerian girls who are missing - like Deborah, Naomi, Hauwa, Pindar, Mary, Monica, Grace, Esther, Aisha, Ruth, Saraya, Blessing, Gloria, Christy, Tabitha, Helen, Amina, Hasana and Rhoda. We may not be able to rescue them, but we can back them up. □



Peyying Chi plays Archery Tag at Indoor Extreme Sports in New York, May 1, 2014. The fast-trending new sport combines dodge ball's simple rules of snatch-and-fling assault with archery's precision, replacing rubber balls with quivers of arrows.

(Agaton Strom/The New York Times)

A Chance to Embrace Your Inner Katniss

STACEY ANDERSON

© 2014 New York Times

NEW YORK - It is oddly satisfying to discover that, without question, you would be the first person to die in the Hunger Games.

Such was my epiphany one evening as I cowered behind an inflated yellow fort, foam-tipped arrows whizzing past my scalp, and shrill battle cries echoing in the humid air. My three teammates circled this makeshift base, drawing their bows with swift hands and pegging our opponents in the torsos and arms. Across the field, my so-called best friend, Diana MacDonald, 31, aimed an arrow directly at my forehead, eyes glinting behind her blue plastic face mask.

Our group of eight had traveled to the Indoor Extreme Sports complex in Queens to try Archery Tag, a fast-trending new sport that combines dodge ball's simple rules of snatch-and-fling assault with archery's precision, replacing rubber balls with quivers of arrows. Since it was added a year ago, the sport has become a top draw at the 38,000-square-foot complex, which also features zombie laser tag, nonex-

ploding paintball and other bruising enticements. It has developed into something of a fantasists' diversion: Large parties often play while outfitted in costumes from such archery-heavy franchises as "The Walking Dead" and "The Hunger Games."

"The cool new weapon in media is a bow and arrow," said Peter Fermoelle, 47, a creative and marketing consultant for Indoor Extreme Sports, or IES. He opened the center in 2005, calling it New York City Paintball then. "It's old-fashioned," he added. "It brings a little more nobility to shooting someone."

It delivers a quick ego boost, as well; Archery Tag's learning curve was surprisingly simple. After fumbling in the introductory round, dropping my hefty silicone bow constantly and managing to deploy only one arrow, I was in much sharper form in the second set, mowing down opponents with glee and sprinting into open terrain to grab wayward projectiles. (The game's rules are similar to those of dodge ball. At the whistle, two teams race to collect arrows at the center of the arena, then aim at

each other from across the field; a player is disqualified when hit by an arrow, and can bring an ousted teammate back into play if he or she catches an arrow.)

As my team's play grew more skillful and frantic, the aerobic strain revealed itself; we staggered to the sidelines, flushed and panting, at intermissions. Our charismatic referee, Adam Vilella, 31, constantly shouted galvanizing words to revive us.

I'm happy to say the pain factor of Archery Tag proved minimal; my forearm stung for a few moments when hit squarely by an arrow, but it did not leave a mark. In contrast, when I volunteered to be shot with a paintball by Vilella (a regrettable attempt at journalistic due diligence), that left a garish bruise on my thigh that lasted two weeks.

Archery Tag's growing popularity owes much to "The Hunger Games" books and films. The sport was invented by John Jackson, the founder of Instinct Archery traditional gear, in May 2011, 10 months before the first movie hit theaters. Jackson, 51, who is based in Waterloo, Indiana, said

he was not initially aware of the action series, but he was quick to sync with it; he staged Archery Tag events at local premieres of both films so far.

Jackson holds a patent on the arrow used in the game, which resembles a rod capped with a marshmallow, yet flies accurately, and he gleefully performs William Tell-style trick shots in the company's many YouTube videos. He estimated that Archery Tag has 170 licensed locations, mostly in the United States, but also in Russia, Peru and Saudi Arabia.

"I just got back from a trip to Singapore, where we had 1,200 kids playing tournament-style for big cash prizes," he said. "It was a neat spectacle."

Archery Tag drew raves from my evening's assembly of athletes. "It's a fantastic sport - very fun, competitive, with a lot of physical endurance," said Justin Corinella, 24, a technical architect. "It struck a rather good balance between the genders," added Emily Smith, 34, an artist. "In regular dodge ball, the men can usually throw so much harder than the women, it's unfair."

The complex is the sole licensed Archery Tag center in New York City. It stages games on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The company plans to open a center on Staten Island this summer, where Archery Tag will graduate to a larger, dedicated outdoor field and can be staged daily.

In the meantime, the owners occasionally integrate the sport into the complex's popular weekly Zombiefest, in which players direct both arrows and laser-tag guns at actors mimicking the bloodthirsty undead. (The same monsters also prowl zombie laser tag, chasing participants around a smoky, postapocalyptic arena. They snarl and lunge with genuinely unsettling ferocity; my teammates and I also played this game and were hooked immediately.)

Two days after my Archery Tag initiation, I remained extremely sore and quite giddy about the experience. Corinella felt the same. "I would absolutely play it another time," he said, "but only once I can actually feel some of the muscles in my body again." □